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Kentucky Summit on Children: Process Evaluation and Key Findings Report

February, 2008



Submitted by
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Training Resource Center
University of Kentucky College of Social Work

Submitted to
Juvenile Services
Administrative Office of the Courts
Kentucky Court of Justice



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INTRODUCTION

Overview and Scope of Work

Overview

In April 2007, Chief Justice Joseph Lambert and Patrick Yewell, General Manager of Juvenile Services at the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), attended a meeting in New York City for state chief justices regarding the child welfare system. After hearing that a few other states had held Summits for Children, Chief Justice Lambert asked his staff to begin planning a similar event for the following August. The goals of the process were three-fold:

- To educate high-level decision-makers about issues associated with child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency, and national programs and services
- To explore solutions for providing a comprehensive system of care for our children
- To provide a forum to debate how administrative procedures can ensure a comprehensive approach to meeting the physical, emotional and educational needs of children

This process was designed to involve the Kentucky Summit on Children followed by nine regional summits. The 2.5 day event held in Louisville was designed to be attended by approximately 500 state level decision-makers, and will hereafter be referred to as the “statewide summit”. The subsequent nine regional summits were to be held in each of the service regions as defined by the Cabinet for Health and Family Service’s (CHFS) Department of Community Based Services (DCBS). This child welfare agency, along with the Departments of Juvenile Justice, Mental Health and Education, the Kentucky Bar Association, the Kentucky CASA Association, Citizen Foster Care Review Boards, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and other organizations co-sponsored the events. The initiative was both an educational and planning process to initiate change on a statewide and local level. This process was planned to yield findings and recommendations to a state level advisory committee which will make formal recommendations to the Chief Justice. The Chief committed to make changes in administrative procedures as appropriate, and to work with the Cabinet, along with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to seek systems improvement. In addition, the expectation was set that based on the regional summits local collaborative efforts would follow to promote systems reform.

Scope of Work

The University of Kentucky was engaged via contract to serve as evaluator for this initiative. The evaluation was to involve both process evaluation and the collection and analysis of data at the statewide and regional summits regarding current child welfare, juvenile justice and court procedures, and recommended reform. This data was to have both quantitative and qualitative components that would be used to inform decision-making. Approval from the University of Kentucky Institutional Review Board was obtained for the study.

In addition, the Administrative Office of the Courts agreed to provide the University of Kentucky with trend data for the five years prior to the Summit process regarding a number of statutory requirements related to the child welfare and juvenile justice court systems. The data, which would identify strengths and areas in need of enhancement would serve as a baseline for tracking system improvement over time.

The University of Kentucky evaluation team therefore observed and participated in some of the planning activities, as well as all of the statewide and regional summit events. In addition to observation, the evaluation included data collected via participant surveys as well as analysis of products generated from workgroups convened at the regional summits. Because of the comprehensive nature of this process and the volume of data collected, this report focuses on findings of primary interest on a statewide level. While this report does include quantitative data analyzed by region for reference, findings of primary interest to individual regions, including analysis of regional worksheets analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of local systems, will be reserved for a second report with this focus.

SECTION 1

Kentucky Summit on Children Process and Methodology

Introduction and Background

The Kentucky Summit on Children and the subsequent Regional Summits represent the most recent in a number of processes in the Commonwealth designed to conduct an assessment or analysis of the functioning of the abuse, neglect and dependency, and juvenile justice systems. The Administrative Office of the Courts has led a number of these efforts through its federally funded Court Improvement Program. In 2005 the state conducted the Court Improvement Reassessment as required by the Children's Bureau which yielded twenty-two overarching findings regarding the current functioning of the court system in a number of areas (Collins-Camargo, Lemon, Ojha, Osborne & Pieratt, 2005). The Summit process was built upon the work done in response to this Reassessment, and was energized by the emphasis in the Child and Family Services Review Process on the involvement of the courts in the overall child welfare system, and recent efforts in Kentucky to enhance the juvenile justice system.

The Statewide Summit on Children

Structure

The statewide summit on children was a two and half day event held in August of 2007. Early registration for summit allowed each attendee to pre-register for six (out of a possible 12) workshops which they would like to attend. These workshops were held at the latter part of the morning and afternoon sessions each day. Some of the topics covered were substance abuse, intimate partner violence, adolescent brain development, racial disproportionality, technological innovations, status offenders, best practices, and educational needs of youth in the system. Each morning and afternoon session began with a plenary session, covering topics such as innovative strategies for reform, current procedural processes, personal history accounts, motivational topics, professional panel discussions and a foster youth panel question/answer session. The final activity of days two and three consisted of a regional workgroup session where participants were separated by region and given an opportunity to collaborate and complete a worksheet to collectively respond to a list of open-ended questions regarding quality and availability of services, effectiveness of procedures, and suggestions for improvement and expansion of services locally.

Description of Participants

In June of 2007, AOC electronically delivered more than 750 invitations to the August Summit on Children to a select group of professionals working within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Interested parties returned a confirmation to AOC via fax or mail,

resulting in 580 registered participants inclusive of presenters and staff. Participant surveys were included in the registration packets distributed at the beginning of the three-day summit. Several of the survey items referred to events occurring throughout the summit, therefore the survey could not be completed until the final day. Participants were instructed to place their surveys in one of four designated boxes located near the registration table upon completion. A total of 120 surveys were collected at this time. An electronic version of the surveys was sent to all registered participants on the following day, giving those who did not complete it on-site another opportunity for input. From this, the evaluators collected an additional 38 surveys for a total of 158 for data entry. Out of the 580 registered participants, 150 were eliminated from the count because they consisted of AOC staff, summit presenters, speakers and panel members, leaving a total of 430 potential survey participants. With 158 completed, a 36.7% response rate was attained.

Based on results from the surveys completed at the statewide summit, the majority of participants consisted of judges (15.2%), CHFS workers (17.1%) and those in the “other” category (18.4%).

Table 1: Primary Role of Participants in the Statewide Summit on Children

Role	Frequency	Percentage
CHFS	27	17%
Judge	24	15%
Prosecutor	15	10%
Private attorney	13	8%
Non-judicial court personnel	13	8%
CDW	11	7%
Mental health	8	5%
DJJ	6	4%
CFCRB	5	3%
CASA	5	3%
Education	2	1%
Other	29	18%

If “other” was selected by an individual, an open text space was given for proper role identification. The most frequent role category written in was juvenile drug court, followed by case specialist and court administrator. Fifty-seven percent of survey participants indicated their primary focus was child protection followed by juvenile delinquency at 21.5%; 13.9% worked within both systems while 7.6% could not identify with either system. This was a very experienced group of individuals. Half of the participants have worked in their identified field for 10 or more years, and 25% reported having more than 18 years of experience.

The Regional Summits

Structure

The nine regional summits all followed the same daily agenda. After a welcome from AOC staff, the attendees heard from a member of CHFS and DJJ about current and upcoming legislation relative to children in care. The final presentation of the morning was a foster youth panel discussion moderated by a local judge. The youth were asked about their challenges and successes during their years in foster care. Summit participants were given the opportunity to ask questions of the panel. The remainder of the day was spent in three breakout sessions with groups separated by either county or discipline. Here they were given worksheets with which to collectively answer several open-ended questions regarding local services, reform efforts and potential solutions.

Description of Participants

Following the statewide summit, nine separate summits were held, one within each service region across the state. AOC reports that approximately 5000 electronic invitations were sent to a wide range of professionals working within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, including administrators and staff. Participant surveys were distributed at the regional summits by placing a copy at each attendee's seat. Participants were asked to return their completed surveys at designated boxes located at the registration tables by the end of the day. Following each summit, an electronic copy of the survey was sent to all individuals registered, in order to give them another opportunity for completion. Respondents were instructed to return completed surveys via fax or email. Unfortunately, good records were not kept in terms of actual attendees at the events. Attendance numbers were based on those individuals who completed sign-in sheets circulated by AOC during one of the workgroup discussions. Because the specific time of distribution varied, it is highly likely that the numbers here represent an under-estimation of actual attendance. With a total of 951 regional attendees, 730 surveys were completed resulting in a 77% response rate. See below for a full breakdown by region.

Table 2: Attendees and Survey Response Rate for the Regional Summits

Service Region	Attendees	Surveys Completed	Response Rate
The Lakes	98	67	68%
Two Rivers	78	77	99%
Northern Bluegrass	127	97	77%
Salt River Trail	97	75	77%
Cumberland	133	109	82%
Eastern Mountain	110	95	86%
Jefferson	114	75	66%
Southern Bluegrass	131	86	66%
Northeastern	63	49	78%
Total	951	730	77%

Based on surveys results, 37.5% of the regional participants were CHFS workers, 15% were either Court Designated Workers or staff from DJJ, and 22% fell into the “other” category.

Table 3: Role of Participants in the Regional Summits

Role	Frequency	Percentage
CHFS	272	38%
CDW	84	12%
CFCRB	64	9%
Mental health	33	5%
Non-judicial court personnel	35	5%
Judge	26	4%
Private attorney	28	4%
DJJ	25	3%
Education	17	2%
Prosecutor	17	2%
CASA	15	2%
Other	110	15%

For analysis purposes, the “other” category included volunteer workers and foster parents as well as the roles seen in the statewide summit results. The predominant system of focus of regional survey participants was child protection at 60.1% followed by juvenile delinquency at 17.8%; 15.3% worked within both systems while 6.8% could not identify with either system. Half of the participants have worked in their identified field for 10 or more years, and 25% reported 16 or more years of experience.

The Literature on Planning for Collaborative Systems Change

In order to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children, those working in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems must be able to collaborate with individuals from other agencies, disciplines and professional backgrounds. Although their roles in the system, perspective, and focus often differ, many of these individuals have an overall interest in working toward the well-being of the child and family. The need for interdisciplinary collaboration within child services is greater now than ever. Two trends that bring this need into focus are the mandate for concurrent case planning, as well as the fact that children in need of protection increasingly come from families who have multiple needs and problems (Packard, Jones, & Nahrstedt, 2006).

For social workers to perform at levels of best practice, interdisciplinary collaboration is essential; however, there are several barriers and challenges to multi-disciplinary collaboration. Smith and Mogro-Wilson (2007) suggest that collaboration stems from a shared concern (in this case, child safety, permanency or well-being). However, as current research and literature

indicate, this commonality is not, in and of itself, enough to create successful multi-disciplinary collaboration. Study findings suggest barriers to collaborative success consist of both individual and group factors. For example, scheduling alone can prove nearly impossible. Ensuring individuals are fully committed in their time and energy is difficult. This, compounded with limited understanding of the roles and expertise of others, mistrust between disciplines, inflexible organizational structures, conflicting professional ideologies, and years of miscommunication among individuals and agencies may prevent successful interdisciplinary collaboration (Bronstein, 2003; Horwath & Morrison, 2007).

When examining the collaboration between child protection workers and mental health services, Darlington, Feeney, and Rixon (2005) found similar barriers in their results from qualitative analysis of data collected from 36 in-depth interviews with professionals from these disciplines. These barriers were professional knowledge domains and boundaries, unrealistic expectations, differences in interagency processes, and inadequate resources. In another study, role definition, role conflict, and a history of miscommunication among professionals were identified as challenges in interdisciplinary practice within the child welfare system (Packard et al., 2006). When specifically targeting the collaboration between child protection services and law enforcement, the findings revealed that two key barriers to an effective relationship were conflicting goals and the inherently adversarial nature of the relationship (Sedlak, Schultz, Wells, Lyons, Doueck, & Gragg, 2006). Common themes unfold throughout the literature in reference to barriers of successful multidisciplinary collaboration. Three of the most prominent noted above are also reiterated in Lewandowski & GlenMaye's (2002) study of collaboration within child welfare: inadequate communication, limited resources and poor professional respect.

When formulating a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort several elements are identified in the literature as needed for effective collaboration. Nissen, Merrigan, and Kraft (2005) identify two that are essential: a shared acceptance of a problem, and consensus among participants regarding the solutions needed for improvement. Open, honest communication among participants is also crucial (Packard et al., 2006; Sedlak et al., 2006). Initial agreement about core goals, mutual engagement and an ongoing commitment from all parties involved will help produce a successful collaboration (Whiteside, 2004).

The literature presents varying forms of a definition for collaboration but all have an underlying theme: interdisciplinary collaboration involves individuals from different (and at times conflicting) roles coming together to work on identifying challenges and formulating solutions in an area of concern. Smith and Mogro-Wilson (2007) state that "inter [disciplinary] collaborative practice is defined as the exchange of information or resources among members of different types of agencies" (p.547). Ivery (2007) defines collaboration as "the process by which participants develop common strategies to achieve jointly determined goals..." (p.13).

For the purposes of this study, collaboration involves professionals and volunteers working in the child welfare and juvenile justice system coming together to formulate priorities of needed change and coordinating potential solutions to improve the safety, permanency and wellbeing of children and families in Kentucky. Review of the findings of the various methodologies employed in the current study (described below) echoes virtually all of these themes, as Summit participants identify barriers and strategies for improving the child welfare

and juvenile justice systems. They also point to a number of solutions that may be necessary for systemic reform to effectively take place.

Methodology

Observation of Group Process

During both the statewide and regional summits, members of the evaluation team took note of the summit plenary processes as well as the separate breakout sessions and workgroups. The statewide summit regional sessions were also observed by University of Kentucky and AOC staff, who used a rating sheet to assess the level of communication and collaboration in each regional workgroup. Due to volume and limited utility, the rating process was not used at the regional summits. The regional summit process consisted of workgroups divided by either county or discipline. During each break out session, the evaluation team observed the workgroup process by sitting in on each group for several minutes, noting specific group process. It appeared that at both the statewide and each regional summit, workgroups went straight to task and stayed focused for most of the allotted time. Because many of the workgroups were held near the end of the day, attrition was noted by the last session in nearly all of the regional events.

Surveys

A hard copy of the survey was given to all participants at the beginning of each summit; it was included in each registration packet at the statewide summit and placed at each seat for the regional meetings. Participants were asked to place their completed surveys in designated boxes located at the registration tables. Following each summit, an electronic copy of the survey was sent to all registrants to provide another opportunity for completion, and returned either via fax or email. All data collected from the surveys was entered by hand and quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS. Open text, qualitative data were analyzed using content analysis procedures. In many cases, comments made overlapped more than one theme so they were assigned to the theme that seemed most emphasized if the statement could not be broken up into more than one. A copy of both the state and regional summit surveys is located in Appendix M.

Qualitative Analysis of Regional Workgroup Products

All regional summits included three 75-minute breakout sessions during which participants were asked to work together to identify system strengths and challenges and generate recommendations for statewide and local reform. Each group was given a worksheet on which to collectively respond to a list of open-ended questions regarding quality and availability of services, effectiveness of procedures, and suggestions for improvement and expansion of services. Worksheets included instructions to list all counties and persons represented in the group. Groups ranged in size from 5 to 10 participants. Participants were divided into groups by geographic area for the first session, individual discipline for the second, and were then returned to their original groups for the final session. Groups were instructed to submit their worksheet to a summit evaluator upon completion.

A content analysis of these worksheets was performed by first converting all data into electronic form and then merging the responses from each region into one document per workgroup category. Responses to each question were then classified based on recommendation type. Items unable to be categorized were labeled “other.”

Study Limitations

Several limitations are present in this evaluation. Potential selection bias exists in two different areas. The convenience sample of invitees was determined by the Administrative Office of the Courts’ staff, not by random selection. Whether or not those attending were representative of all professionals within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems is undeterminable, therefore the data may not be generalizable to all workers’ perceptions. It will be noted in some of the findings that some participants expressed that important groups were either missing or not adequately represented. No attempt was made to collect data from individuals who did not attend the Summits themselves.

Another limitation to be considered is the presence of potential selection bias of those who chose to complete the survey versus those who did not. At the state summit in particular, where surveys were distributed on day one with other summit materials, participants would have had to make a deliberate effort to complete it before leaving the event. Although attendees were reminded to do so repeatedly, there is no way of determining if those who completed the survey were in some way different than those who did not.

Response rates were difficult to calculate, as actual attendance data was questionable. It is not possible to determine how many actually attended events from the information collected, and it is similarly difficult to separate those staffing or presenting at the events from the intended participants. The ability to provide a second chance for completion of the survey was hampered by numerous inaccurate email addresses. While the estimated response rate for the regional summits was within a very good range, that of the Statewide Summit is below that which would be considered representative of all participants.

The data collected from these events was perceptual in nature as opposed to an actual measurement of the existence of challenges or areas in need of reform. The findings in this report reflect the opinion of the participants as based on their own experiences. Because the overwhelming majority of the participants at the regional summits were CHFS staff, the data may be skewed toward their specific issues since not all professional roles were equally represented. Therefore, this report contains specific role based analysis of the survey items.

Finally, the qualitative section within the surveys and the worksheets completed by the workgroups contained several instances of uninterpretable data where the evaluation team was either unable to read the respondent’s handwriting or the content of the information was indefinable.

SECTION 2

Summit Process Evaluation

Observations of Group Process

Statewide Summit Regional Workgroup Observation Findings

As stated in the methodology section of this report, the statewide summit regional workgroup sessions were observed by University of Kentucky and AOC staff, who used a rating sheet to assess the level of communication and collaboration in each regional workgroup. Responses on rating sheets indicated that the majority of observers felt groups enjoyed very high levels of participation from members. Specifically, 66.7% of observers chose the highest participation rating on the sheet's Likert-scale. 28.6% chose the second-highest, and 4.8% indicated they observed average participation. Similar results were indicated for collaboration rates, with 73.8% of observers indicating the highest collaboration rating, 19.05% indicating the second-highest rating, and 7.1% indicating an average rate of collaboration. Responses were slightly less positive for accomplishment, with 50% of observers choosing the highest rating, 37.5% choosing the second-highest, 10% selecting average, and 2.5% selecting a less-than-average rating.

Rating sheets also provided space for observers to comment on their observations. The most frequent remarks were:

- Work sessions were too short
- Too many questions for time allowed
- Majority of participants seemed interested and engaged
- Judges were noted to lead discussions more often than any other profession
- Much time spent discussing services available in other regions
- Little commitment to follow-up, due to lack of time

As previously mentioned, the evaluation team or designated staff observed the sessions by sitting in on each group for several minutes, noting specific group process. Evaluators' findings indicated that workgroups went straight to task and stayed focused for most of the allotted time. Attendance at the first workgroup session was better than the second, with fewer people returning the following day for the second aspect of the process.

Regional Summit Process Findings

The majority of regional summit process consisted of workgroups divided up by either county or discipline. These were designed to be primarily a working meeting, rather than a

training event. During each breakout session, the evaluation team observed the workgroup process by sitting in on each group for several minutes, noting specific group process. It appeared that at each regional summit, workgroups went straight to task and stayed focused for most of the allotted time. Because two of the workgroups were conducted near the end of the day, attrition was noted by the last session in most regions. The majority of participants were actively engaged in the discussion.

Participant Perceptions of the Process

Statewide Summit Findings

The summit has been great. I would like to have had more time for the workgroups. I hope to see our legislature present at the regional meetings. I'm looking forward to the future for children in our great state. We have much to do and it can be done.—Statewide Summit Participant

In order to discern the participants' perception of the presentations and workshops offered at the Summit on Children in Louisville, the survey included items pertaining to these topics. When asked about their satisfaction with the training provided, a Likert-style scale revealed that 53.2% of participants responded "very much" and 33.5% responded "a lot". Regarding the participants' plan to discuss and/or recommend any of the ideas/materials gained, 82.2% stated they were likely to do so. Additionally, 93.7% of the participants said they expect to use the summit presentation

and workshop materials in the future. For those participants who did not expect to use the ideas learned or the material gained at the summit, the two most frequent reasons cited were lack of time (11.4%) and that they already use similar strategies (11.4%).

Similar to the survey items regarding the summit presentations, there were questions regarding the participants' perception of the regional workgroup breakout sessions. Almost half, 49.3%, indicated they were either "a lot" or "very much" satisfied with the workgroup process, and 23.4% somewhat satisfied. Ideas were exchanged during the workgroups with 71% expecting to use the information gained during the session in the future. Slightly more than 25% plan to discuss what they learned with their supervisor. This is most likely due to the fact that several participants may not have a direct supervisor or were decision-makers themselves (e.g. judges, program directors). For those participants who did not expect to use the ideas learned and material gained at the regional workgroup sessions, the two most frequent reasons cited were that they already use similar strategies (12.7%) and that their local court system does not have the resources to utilize the new ideas (11.4%). Based upon these findings, the majority of participants were satisfied with the summit offerings and plan to utilize the information gained.

Only time will tell. Potentially they could have great impact. I have heard a lot of rhetoric. If all this talk can be transferred to action improvement will happen; if not, things will remain as they are.—Northeastern Region Participant

The end of the survey offered two items pertaining to the participants' perceptions of the level of impact the Louisville Summit on Children will have on the safety, permanency and wellbeing of children and youth in Kentucky. Regarding the statewide summit, 57.6% thought there would be some or significant impact with 33.5% taking a neutral position. Overall, the analysis

indicates that the majority of participants thought the summit process as a whole would be effective in impacting the safety, permanency and wellbeing of children and youth in Kentucky.

Because some issues discussed have been “being discussed” for years, let’s stop having meetings and take action.—Southern Bluegrass Participant

Thirty-four individuals made open text comments or suggestions regarding the statewide Summit. Overall, survey respondents were positive in their comments regarding the statewide Summit (see Appendix D for aggregate analysis of survey comments). A number of participants noted that this was a very good first step in what was perceived as a longer-term process. Another important theme was the need to follow up and take action based on ideas generated at the event, and to have regular meetings of this sort. Another theme was concern that not all relevant groups were represented. Some participants indicated the following should be included: CHFS and DJJ frontline workers, school personnel, law enforcement, mental health practitioners, and legislators. This suggests that there was a lack of understanding of the purposeful structure of the Summit process—the statewide event was designed to involve primarily state-level decision-makers, while the regional summits were planned to be inclusive of frontline staff from the variety of disciplines. A couple of others suggested attendance of such events should be mandatory for judges. Finally a few individuals offered recommendations regarding the structure of the event or process, such as offering more individual workshops. Unfortunately, the Administrative Office of the Courts opted not to ask participants to complete an evaluation of individual workshops, so no data is available in that regard; however three respondents made negative comments concerning particular plenary speakers.

Regional Summit Process Findings

Because the majority of time during the regional summits was spent in breakout sessions among counties and/or disciplines, the survey included an item to examine the participants’ perception of these roundtables. When asked about their satisfaction with the sessions, a Likert-style scale revealed that 61.2% of the participants were either very much or a lot satisfied with the process with a total of 90.5% at least somewhat satisfied. Regarding the participants’ plan to discuss and/or recommend any of the ideas/materials gained with colleagues, 80.0% stated they would do so with 86.8% stating they expect to use some of the ideas gained from the sessions in the future. In regards to the survey item addressing the likely impact of the regional summit process on the well-being of children in Kentucky, over half (50.2%) indicated that there would be “some” or “significant” impact while 35% of respondents were “neutral”. Only 14.8% believed there to be little or no impact.

Great meeting, well-organized, great food, speakers had important information.—Cumberland Regional Participant

The most significant theme from content analysis of the “additional comments” section (see Appendix D for specific comments) of the surveys completed for both the regional and statewide summits were positive comments regarding the initiative. These encompassed a full third of the comments on the Summit process. Participants cited the foster youth panel as the most helpful feature of formal presentation more often than any other aspect. The power of this portion of the agenda is reflected in the number of recommendations made both in the

surveys and in the workgroup products related to the need for support services and policy change for this population. Nine individuals indicated they were unsure or doubtful that the process would have a positive impact, and only six across the entire state noted a clearly negative comment about the Summits, most regarding specific presenters. The next most common theme was that not all of the groups needed at such an event were in attendance. Most frequently, participants complained that not enough judges, attorneys and court personnel were present. Other groups noted as absent or inadequately represented were legislators, and educators.

A significant number of respondents (n=20) made comments urging the importance of some sort of follow up and action based on the work completed at the regional summits. Some requested information on what happened after the completion of the process, and others requested that the momentum built in the process not be allowed to wane. A variety of constructive suggestions (see Appendix D for a list) were made that could improve upon the process. Topics ranged from the role of group facilitators to avoiding the use of acronyms to including a broader range of foster youth in the panels. Overall, the findings suggest perceptions were primarily very positive regarding the entire initiative.

Summary of Process Findings

Timing and Scheduling

More of this kind of summit. I was skeptical and now I'm a cheerleader.—Statewide Summit Participant

Scheduling large multidisciplinary events is tremendously challenging. It should be noted that, in light of the short time period AOC staff was given to plan a very large statewide event, that a tremendous amount was accomplished. The attendance rate alone is evidence of the importance of the process. Although the regional meetings were originally scheduled to extend into the spring of 2008, a decision was made to compress the time period to enable coverage of all regions by the end of December. The original schedule, which had already been announced, was then replaced by a new schedule. This change enabled momentum from the Statewide Summit to be maintained, as well as recommendations to be generated prior to the 2008 General Assembly. It is likely that this influenced attendance, particularly for judges and attorneys, given that dockets are planned well in advance. It is unknown whether this factor also significantly impacted those regions for which overall attendance was low, such as the Northeastern region, whose summit was held very close to the holiday season. It is notable that overall attendance was high, given the timeframe involved.

Attendees from Different Regions

One unfortunate byproduct of the need to complete the series in a short period of time was that for each of the regional summits, a small group of attendees came from outside the region. This is unavoidable, and is likely due to individuals' inability to attend the session in their own region. This did present an issue, however, given that the workgroup process was designed based on an analysis and recommendation procedure that was primarily regional in nature. This was particularly problematic in instances where judges and prosecutors were unable

to attend the summit in their own region, given the importance of their unique perspective and leadership.

Importance of Follow Up

Establish local councils to meet on a regular basis to discuss how to make process better for families.—Cumberland Regional Participant

Clearly, the majority of participants viewed the entire process—from statewide summit (which proportionally favored education and information sharing, with a smaller amount of time devoted to regional work), to regional meetings (in which two thirds of the time was spent in workgroups analyzing challenges and solutions, and generating recommendations) positively. Data collected suggested a strong desire for this series of summits to not be an end in themselves, but rather a starting point. The findings clearly point to the need for follow up and follow through on both state-level recommendations and regional or localized ongoing collaborative reform activities. This theme—that ongoing interagency and branch communication and collaboration is needed, is echoed through findings from multiple sources throughout this report.

SECTION 3

Findings from the Participant Survey

The participants of the statewide summit were asked to complete a survey which asked them to assess areas in need of reform within the child welfare, juvenile justice and court systems, and to recommend strategies that should be considered to promote systems improvement. Based on preliminary analysis of data collected at the statewide event, the survey was revised for use at the regionals, with some questions being added to focus on areas in need of additional study. Data reported below, to the extent that the same questions were asked in both statewide and regional summits, have been aggregated to demonstrate the overall perceptions of participants in the entire initiative. Because of the length of the survey and the volume of data, graphs are provided as a quick reference to the most common answers to many of the questions, but frequencies for all items are provided in the Appendix.

Due to the attendance at the regional summits, and the fact that the target population for the statewide and regional summits differed, analysis of data by region for questions asked on both surveys is offered. In addition to the nine service regions, “statewide” represents those attending the Kentucky Summit on Children that was held in August 2007 in Louisville. This should not be taken to mean that all of those participants within this group do not work in individual regions, as some do work primarily in specific communities, judges being a good example of this. It should be understood that no identifying information was collected on the surveys, so it is possible that individuals attending both the statewide and one or more regional summits could have completed more than one survey. The majority of detail differentiating responses by region may be found in the Appendix.

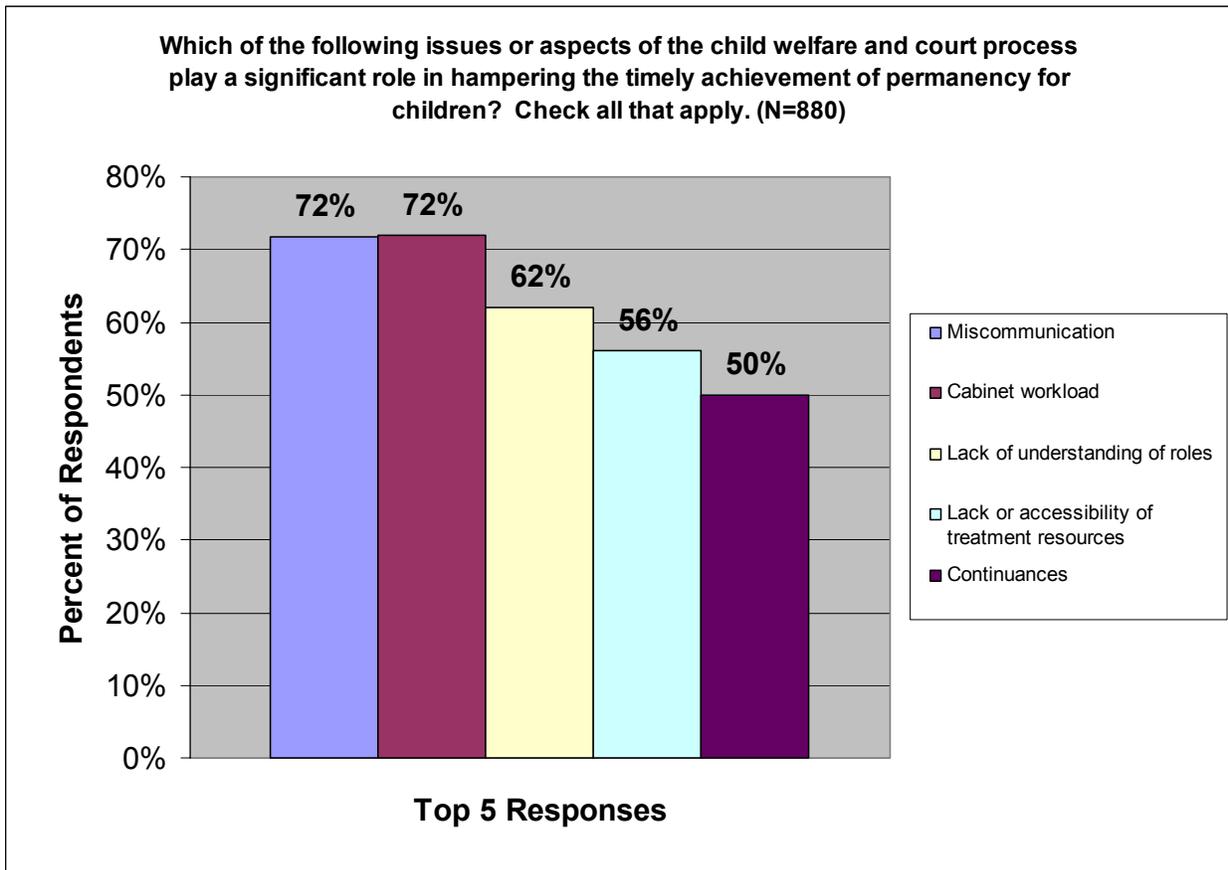
Quantitative data was also analyzed by role of the respondent, as the initiative included participants from many disciplines. This enables review of the data to determine if perceptions differ in a meaningful way based on respondent’s roles (e.g., judges, DCBS or DJJ workers, community service providers, etc). Notable differences are documented in the text. Otherwise, tables differentiating response by role can be found in the Appendix.

Areas of the System in Need of Reform to Improve Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families

Child Welfare

Survey respondents were asked to identify areas impacting children in the child welfare system. Figure 1 below reflects those areas most frequently selected across all summit events.

Figure 1: Top Five Issues or Aspects of the Child Welfare and Court Process Hampering the Achievement of Permanency for Children



***Legend definitions**

- *Miscommunication among agencies*
- *Cabinet workload*
- *Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals*
- *Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families*
- *Court continuances*

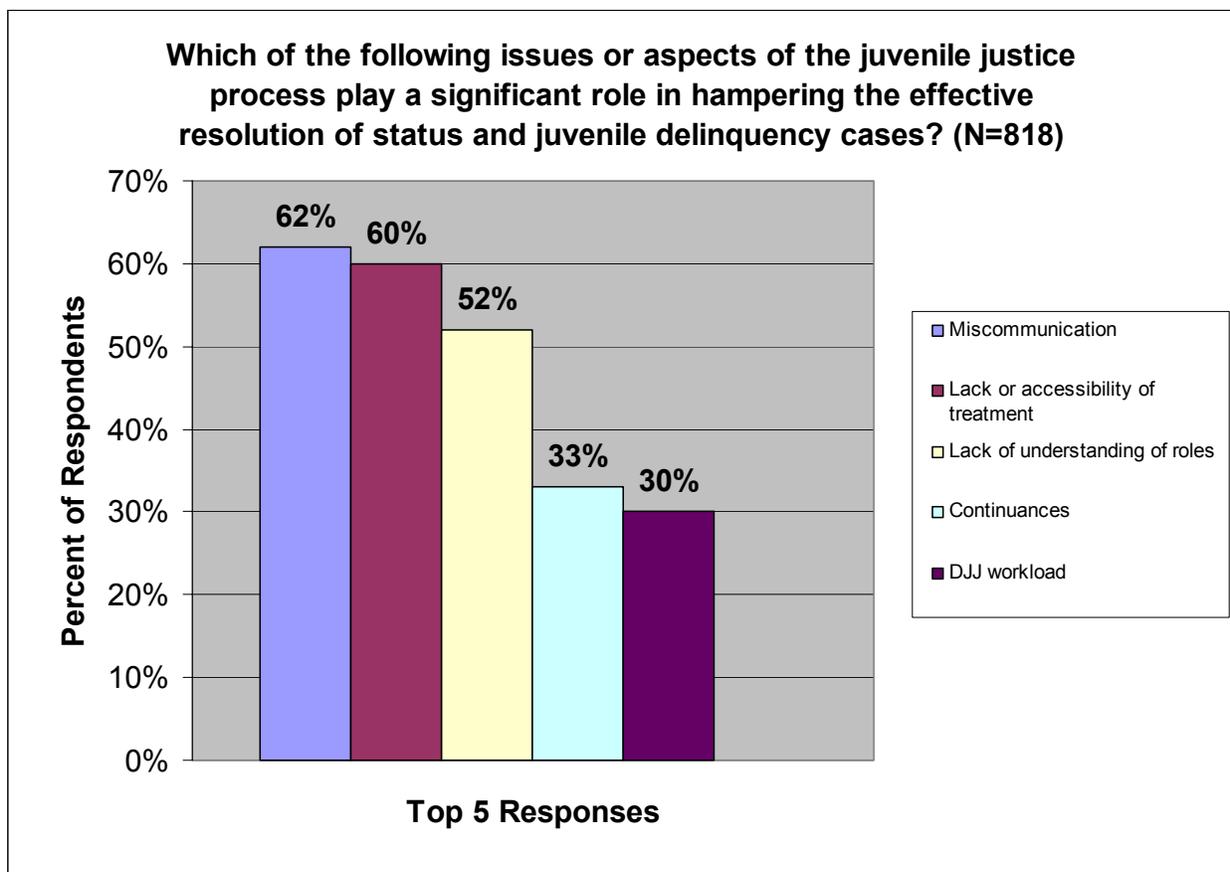
Although there is little difference between the impact of role or region on perception of the most notable challenges within the child welfare system, a few are worth mentioning. (A full breakdown by role and region can be found in Appendix A) For example, 48.8% of private attorneys indicated that competent assessment and case planning with families affects the timely achievement of permanency for children while most other professionals' results were under 30%, and many of those remaining were under 40%. Over half (51.2%) of private attorneys noted that failure to identify, locate, or engage relative placement resources is an important issue, while no other group of professionals indicated this as critical. A final notable differentiation among roles was the judges response to failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents; over half (52%) indicated that this was an obstacle of permanency for children. Professionals in other roles marked this as much less of a priority, ranging from 25% to 44%.

Regionally, participants from The Lakes and Eastern Mountain districts showed the greatest differentiation from the majority. The Eastern Mountain region indicated their number one issue hampering permanency for children was continuances, with 73.4% of the participants from this region selecting the item. The Lakes were concerned about a problem with continuances (over 70%), whereas the total number (all the regions combined) was at only 50%. Another area of interest for The Lakes region that differed from the regions as a whole was competent legal representation for children; this was a priority for them with 76.1% response rate versus only a 40.2% response rate from all regions combined.

Juvenile Justice

Survey respondents were also asked to identify areas impacting children in the Juvenile Justice system. Figure 2 below reflects those areas most frequently selected across all summit events.

Figure 2: Top Five Issues or Aspects of the Juvenile Justice Process Playing a Significant Role in Hampering the Effective Resolution of Status and Juvenile Dependency Cases



***Legend definitions**

- *Miscommunication among agencies*
- *Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families*

- *Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals*
- *Court continuances*
- *DJJ workload*

Similar to the challenges facing the child welfare system, the results from the survey item regarding issues hampering resolution of juvenile cases show little variance between disciplines or regions. See Appendix A for a full breakdown by role and region. Here, both prosecuting and private attorneys fell outside of the majority in the two areas of miscommunication and lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process. Whereas miscommunication was the number one concern for the respondents as whole, only 21.4% of prosecuting and 22.9% of private attorney indicated it as a problem. While lack of understanding of roles came in at number three (52%) for all respondents, prosecutors (21.4%) and private attorneys (17.1%) did not view it as a priority.

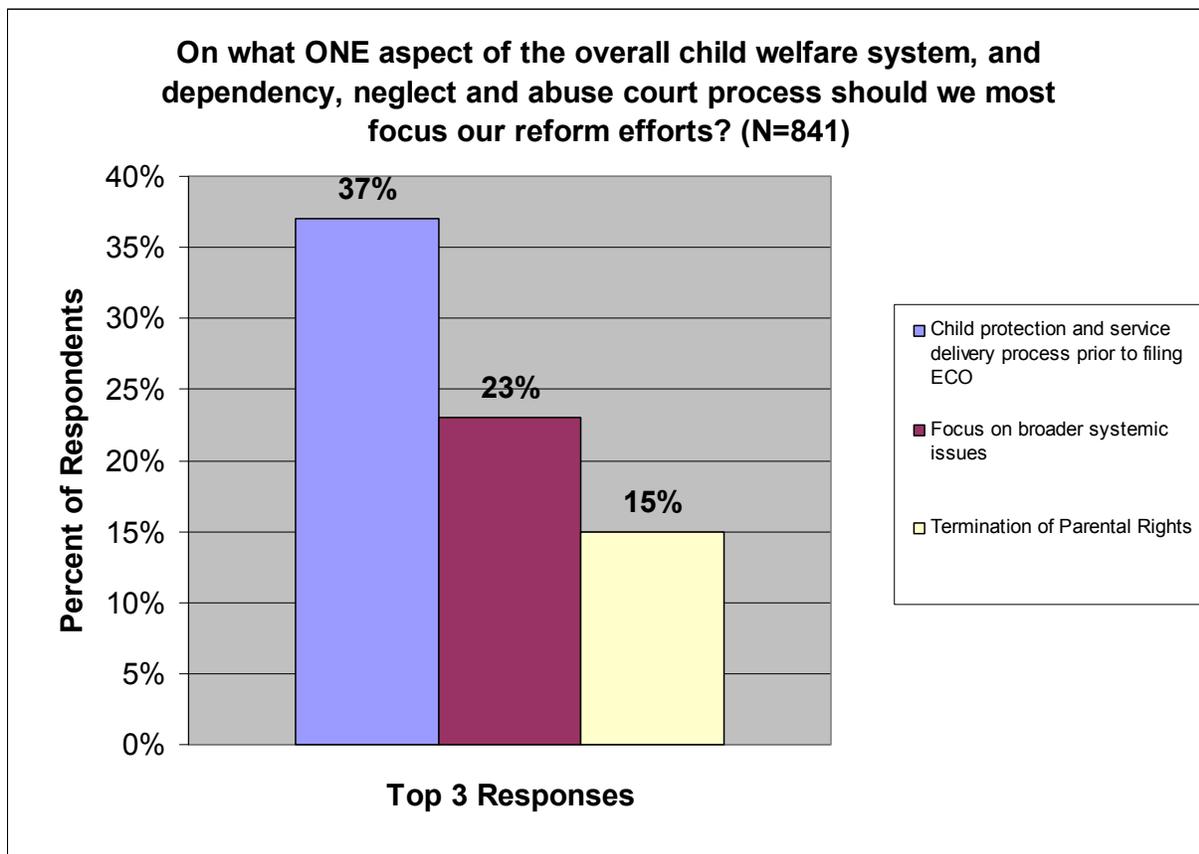
The individual regions did not break away much from the aggregate. However, Northern Bluegrass was 18% higher in their response to the item concerning DJJ staff workload at 48.2% and Jefferson indicated that a lack of appropriate court diversion programs was at the top of their list of juvenile justice issues at 40%, with the statewide number only reaching 25%.

Aspect of the Overall System, and Court Process on Which to Focus Reform

Child Welfare/DNA System

There were three survey items relating to specific aspects of the overall system and court process that need focus for reform. The first item was in reference to aspects of the child welfare system, and dependency, neglect and abuse court processes. The following figure displays the top three responses.

Figure 3: Top Three Responses Regarding the One Aspect of the Overall Child Welfare System and DNA Court Process on Which Reform Should be Focused



With only ten options for this survey question, there were few differences by role or region. See Appendix B for a full breakdown by role and region. Judges were the only discipline that varied notably in two of the reform aspects. Close to 21% indicated that the period of post-disposition needed attention while the aggregate results were at 7.4%. Additionally, 41.7% of judges marked that broader systemic issues are a priority for reform, while the combined role response for this item was 22.7%. There were no notable differences by region.

Regional respondents who selected “broader systemic issues” as opposed to specific stages of the child welfare court process were asked to explain the type of systemic issues needing attention. Content analysis of the responses was conducted, and the following themes emerged (See Appendix E for specific responses):

For CPS workers, the court process is mostly learned through on the job experience or trial and error. More training in this area with regard to the law itself and the court system would benefit workers, the families we serve and the court system. I think the specific training for legal staff, especially attorneys who serve as parent attorneys and GALs would also be beneficial as well as joint training with judges, county attorneys and CPS staff. –Cumberland Region Participant

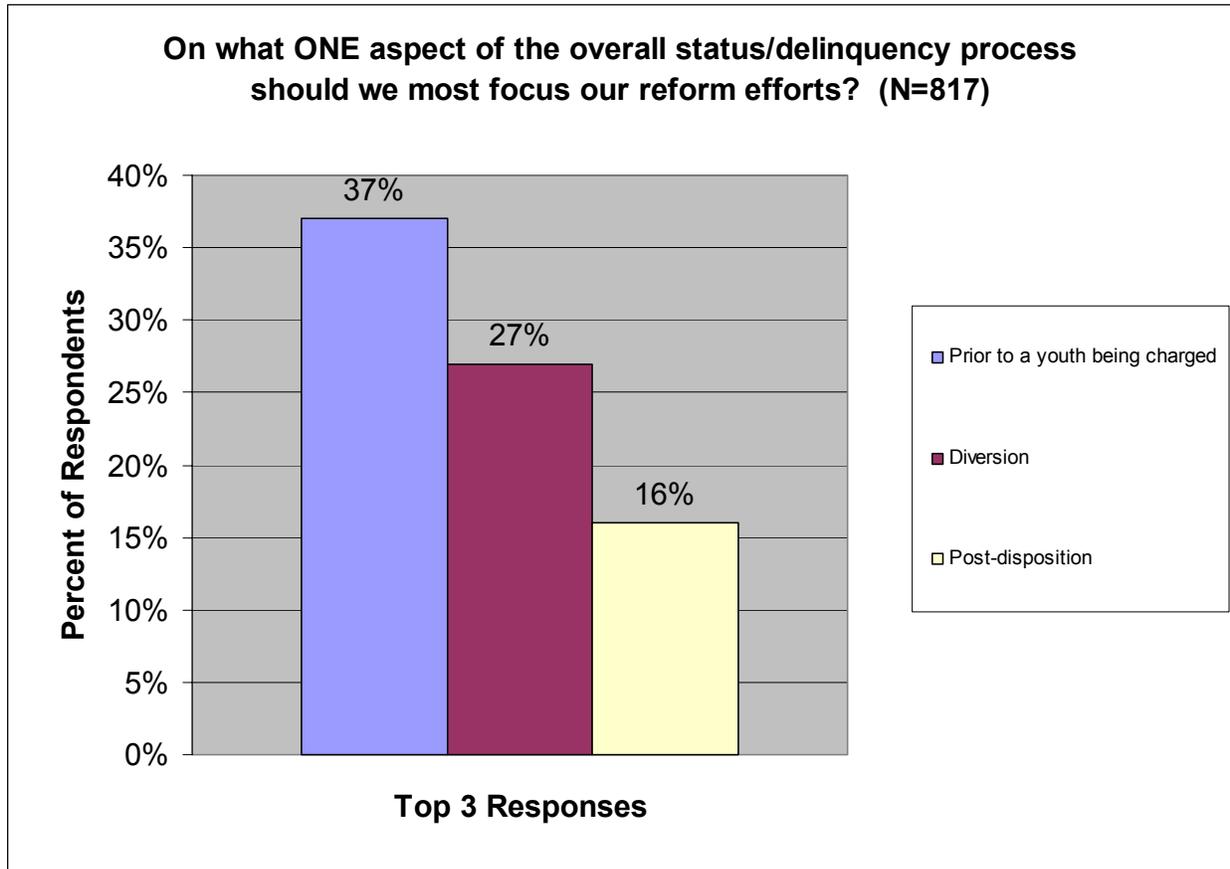
- **Training (28 across 9 regions):** A number of these responses were general, but others made specific recommendations for topics such as court procedure for Cabinet workers or processes, and mentoring for new workers. Another group suggested multi-disciplinary cross-training. Still others listed topics but did not indicate who, specifically should be involved, such as training on the impact of the process, not just the process itself.
- **Procedural (23 across 8 regions):** A group of these involved comments regarding specific Cabinet practice, such as reducing paperwork so that more time can be spent with families, or providing attorneys notice of the five-day case planning conference. A second group involved court procedures such as increasing the time spent in

- temporary removal hearings or increasing post-dispositional reviews. A few others, such as speeding up adoptions, could not be confidently assigned to a branch.
- **Increase Staffing/Reduce Caseload (18 across 8 regions):** This theme is echoed in responses throughout the survey, and included DCBS, DJJ, youth care workers and attorneys.
 - **Expand the Availability of Services (9 across 7 regions):** These responses involved an expression of the perspective that a lack of services to assist families and children was impeding the system.
 - **Collaboration/Communication (5 across 5 regions):** These individuals noted the need for community agencies to work together.
 - **Philosophical Approach (8 across 4 regions):** These were general statements about the focus of the system, such as the need to take a more holistic approach, or to focus more on what children really need.
 - **Prevention (4 across 4 regions):** These individuals encourage more focus on preventative services.
 - **Other:** These responses defy categorization and were unique to individuals.

Status/Delinquency System

A second item under the heading of “areas in need of reform to improve outcomes for children, youth and families” related to the respondents’ opinion about one aspect of the overall status/delinquency process that needs the most attention. The following Figure displays the top three responses:

Figure 3: Top Three Responses to the One Aspect of the Overall Status/Delinquency Process on Which Reform Efforts Should be Focused



As with the previous item, there was not much variance by role or region in responses. See Appendix B for a full breakdown by role and region. However, judges indicated a different number one priority with 38.8% responding that post disposition/aftercare was where the focus of reform is needed, while only 15.5% of all other respondents marked this item. As in the previous question regarding child welfare, judges were more likely to note broader systemic issues (24.5%) as an area in need of reform over the combined discipline response (12.7%). As far as variance by region, there were no notable differences.

Similarly, responses indicating that broader systemic issues needed focus as opposed to specific stages of the status/delinquency process were analyzed. The themes here were similar but the ordering by frequency of response differed somewhat:

- Procedural (19 across all 9 regions):** A group of individuals made recommendations regarding CDW practice, such as working more with community partners. Others focused on DJJ, such as offenders being placed in foster care when no abuse or neglect issues exist. Another group involved court practice, such as committing status offenders to DJJ rather than DCBS. Finally, some general comments were made such as increasing the focus on services and resolving family issues.

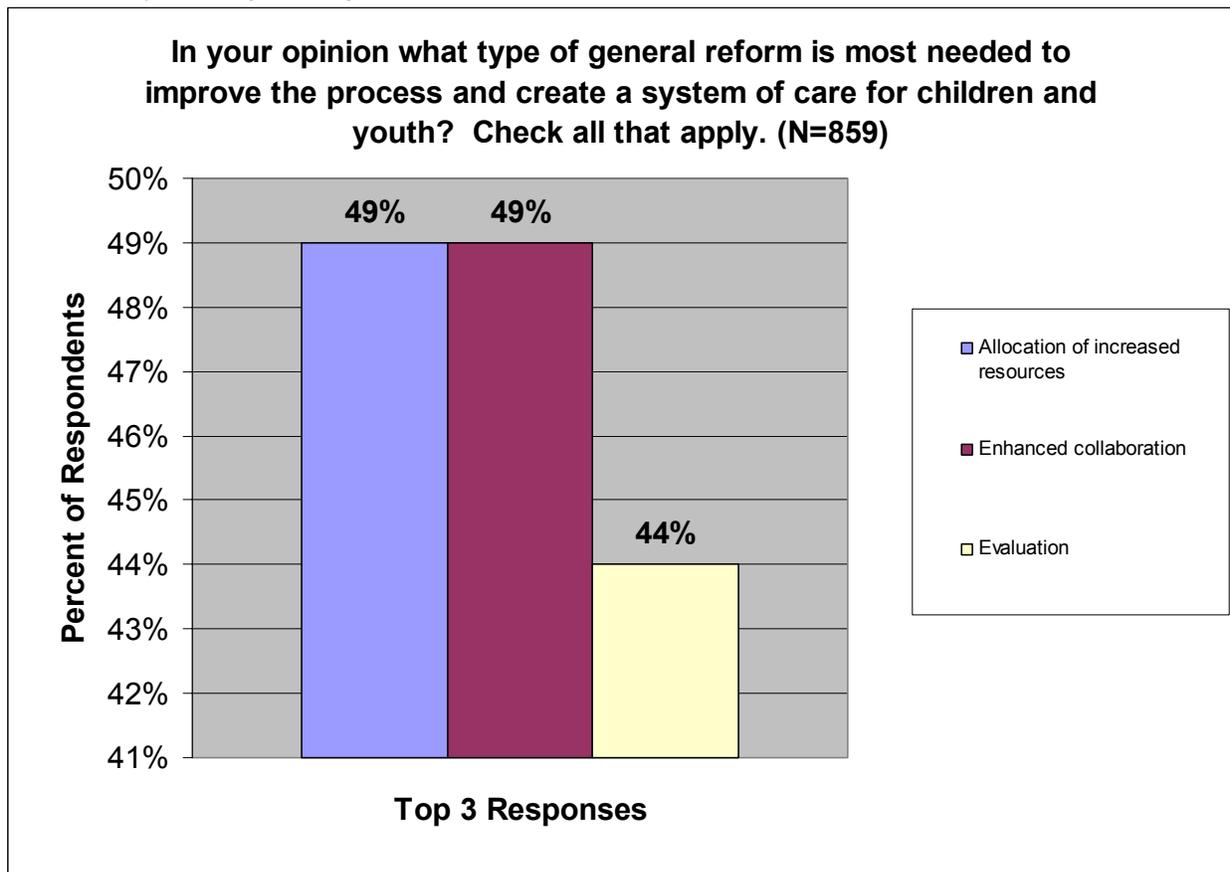
Most of the time status offenses stem from a much larger problem at home with the parents. Stop filing charges on children and get the family help.—Two Rivers Region Participant

- **Philosophical Approach (7 across 5 regions):** The majority of these encouraged the system to focus more on underlying issues in the family than the status/delinquent behavior itself.
- **Prevention (5 across 3 regions):** These responses emphasized working with at risk families before status or delinquent behaviors arise.
- **Training (4 across 4 regions):** All were general statements about a need for training.
- **Accountability (4 across 4 regions):** These comments focused on offenders, as well as parents and GALs.
- **Diversion (3 individuals across 3 regions):** These comments were similar, and may in fact not need to be separated from those in the prevention category, but were separated out as the term was used specifically.
- **Other:** These comments were outliers, such as “societal change.”

Type of General Reform Needed to Create a System of Care

The final item under the heading of “areas in need of reform” allowed respondents to check multiple items in the area of general reform needed to improve the process and create a system of care for children and youth. The following Figure displays the top three responses:

Figure 4: Top Three Response Regarding the Type of General Reform Needed to Create a System of Care for Children and Youth



***Legend definitions**

- Allocation of increased resources to the system
- Enhanced collaboration on a local level
- Evaluation of child welfare and court-related programs

Regarding variances by role, prosecuting and private attorneys stood out in one category. While only 34.1% of the aggregated responses indicated that statutory change is an area in need of general reform, 51.6% of prosecutors and 50% of private attorneys marked this as a priority. Regionally, almost half (49.4%) of the participants from the statewide summit also noted statutory change as necessary. Over half (51.3%) of the statewide participants indicated that mandatory training was essential to improvement; a difference of more than 15% from the combined group of responses. See Appendix E for a full breakdown by role and region.

Individuals selecting mandatory training of professionals were asked to specify who should receive training. Twenty-seven respondents indicated “all” groups should be trained. The groups named in order of frequency were judges (39 times); Cabinet (27 times); GALs (25 times); attorneys (19 times); county attorneys (6 times); CDWs (5 times); clerks (2 times); CASA (2 times); and foster parents (2 times). The following other groups were mentioned by one individual each: court personnel, parents, foster parents, DJJ, PJJ, prosocial [sic?] mentors, community service providers and schools.

In addition to selecting from a list of types of general reform, respondents had the option of selecting “other” and then providing detail regarding their recommendations. The majority of these comments were unique, and the specific details are available in the Appendix. However, content analysis did reveal some themes that included responses from multiple individuals:

We have very little access to treatment and it is often cost prohibitive. Many counties have no resources. So I guess the answer is financial and/or political. State must provide the means for services.—The Lakes Region Participant

- **Services (10):** These included preventative, in-home services, mediation and a few other types of services mentioned by individuals
- **Interagency/Branch Collaboration (5)**
- **Increase Salaries to Attract and Retain Highly Qualified Staff (4)**
- **Work with Clients (4):** These ranged from working more closely with families to “limit[ing] the number of chances parents get”
- **Increase Staffing (3)**
- **Statutory Change (3):** Issues mentioned here were disallowing anonymous referrals, transferring status cases; and extending review of files prior to removal of a child (presumably referring to the citizen’s foster care review board).
- **Open Court (3)**
- **Cross-Training (2)**

Specific Changes Recommended

Regional participants were asked to offer any specific changes that should be instituted regarding the types of reform indicated above. Although such open text questions often do not yield many responses on surveys such as this, a wide variety of specific ideas for reform were offered (See Appendix F for specific responses). It should be noted, however, that some of those received were somewhat general in nature and difficult to interpret. In addition, some suggestions were in direct conflict with comments made by other individuals, such as recommendations to both narrow and broaden types of reports accepted by the Cabinet for investigation. A content analysis of responses was completed and the following themes identified, in order of frequency:

The conferencing and hearing process should be allocated more time/ greater emphasis. It’s the first court experience and may set the tone as well as goals for the rest of the parents legal experience with the court and ongoing workers influence.—Jefferson Region Participant

- **Community/Individual Services (102 across all 10 regions):** Respondents indicated specific types of services/resources that were needed in their communities: substance abuse screening and treatment; diversion/programs for status and public offenders; prevention; mental health; services for foster youth/independent living; general resources; intensive in-home; placement resources; visitation centers; transportation; systems of care; and a range of individual suggestions.
- **Changes in Court Procedures (53 across all 10 regions):** A number of specific recommendations were made in this

category. Most frequently, individuals noted a need for timeliness or speeding up the process to achieve permanency for children. Other topics offered by more than one participant were: increased consistency across the state; accountability for parents or juveniles; appointment of attorneys prior to the temporary removal hearing; hearing status cases in family court; docketing reform; improved treatment of workers; and establishment of a procedure for children found incompetent to stand trial.

- **Training (35 across 9 regions):** Those for whom training was recommended, in order of frequency are: judges/courts; cross-training; Cabinet; and other specific or mixed groups.

Workers need to be workers like in the early 90's. Workers of today do not know families or their needs and dynamics. Workers used to be able to explain to courts and all of family needs now they can't.—Jefferson Region Participant

- **DCBS/DJJ Policies and Procedures (34 across all 10 regions):** Individuals had an array of suggested changes to agency procedures. These fell into the following categories: intake and investigations of reports; a need for oversight and accountability; case planning; non-relative placement of children; and, clarification of roles and the transfer of cases between the two agencies.

- **Interagency/Branch Communication/Collaboration (30 across all 10 regions):** Similar to findings

discussed elsewhere there were a significant group who felt dialogue and collaboration among parties to serve the base interest of children was needed. While some of these were more general in nature, others felt HIPPA and other policies had hindered the effective functioning of the system.

- **Statutory Change (26 across 7 regions):** The two topics mentioned by multiple individuals were regulation of home schooling and changing/eliminating status offenses. In addition there was a list of other changes recommended by individuals.
- **Attorney Practice (20 across 7 regions):** The majority of these involved setting practice standards for guardians ad litem, and increasing their fees and training expectations. Others spoke of a need for change in prosecutor or defense attorney practice.
- **Increase Staffing/Reduce Caseloads (15 across 8 regions):** This group involved primarily increasing frontline worker positions so that individual workers had more time to spend with individual families. The need for additional attorneys, CDWs and judges was also noted.
- **Funding (14 across 8 regions):** Overall, this was a general request for funding the entire system more adequately.
- **Professional Accountability (14 across 6 regions):** These responses included a general call for accountability for Cabinets workers, CDWs, GALs and judges, as well as a call for external review of the court or specific agencies.
- **Statewide Family Court (11 across 6 regions)**
- **Open Court (6 across 5 regions):** These individuals advocated increasing transparency of the court system.

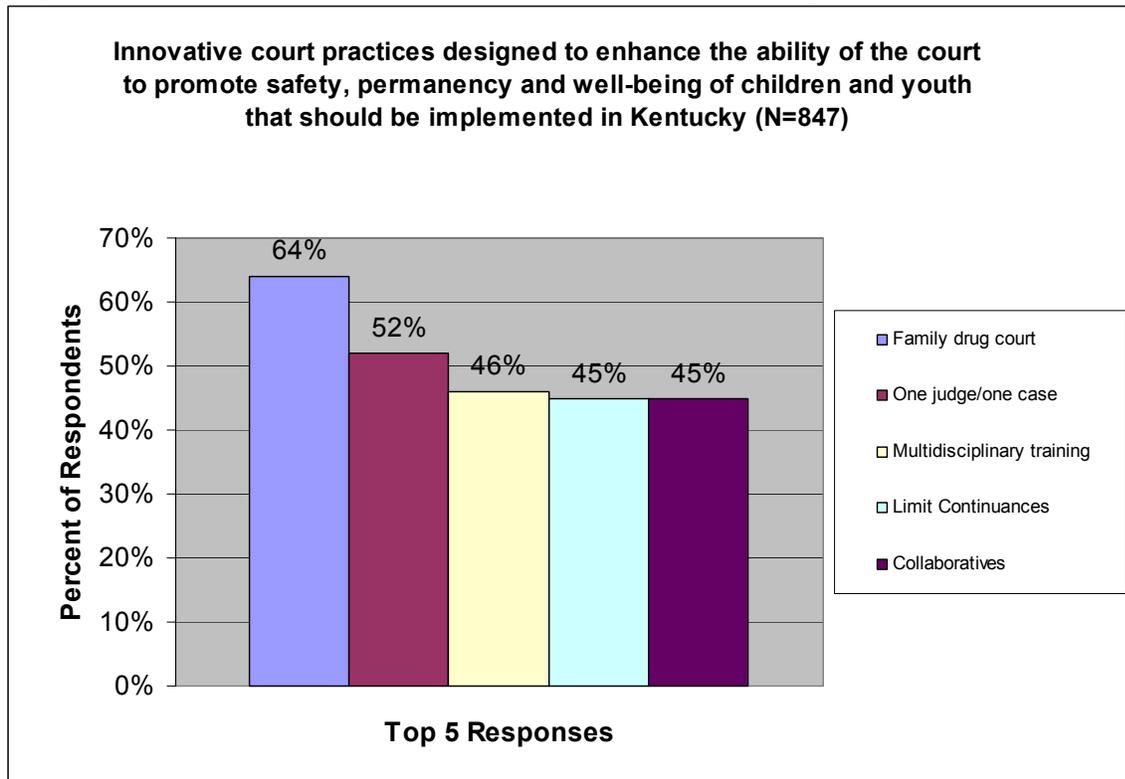
*Accountability is a major factor in the various agencies. Referral sources don't communicate with service providers. GAL not effective or held accountable. Assessment recommendations not followed, consequences not imposed...--
The Lakes Region Participant*

- **Other:** This includes a rather long list of recommendations made by individual participants.

Innovative Court Practices that Should be Implemented

Whereas the previous items allowed the participants to single out the *challenges* to effectiveness in their jobs and with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, this survey item afforded them the opportunity to indicate what *solutions* may be appropriate for improvement. Twenty-six innovative court practices that have been instituted or piloted across the nation, and in some cases the state, in order to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth were listed in this survey item, with the participants able to mark as many as they deemed appropriate. It should be noted that participants were in favor of implementing a wide range of reforms, and detail of each can be found in the Appendix. The following figure displays the top five responses:

Figure 5: Innovative Court Practices That Should be Implemented in Kentucky



***Legend definitions**

- *Family drug court*
- *One judge/one case policy*
- *Multidisciplinary training*
- *Procedures to limit continuances*
- *Court/agency/community collaboratives*

There were a few notable differences by role and region for this survey question. See Appendix C for a full breakdown by role and region). Once again, judges and attorneys, both

More cross collaboration/training to involve court personnel, community partners, and DCBS so that face-to-face communication is possible. Field workers, at times, feel removed from the chance to affect change by such interaction. They feel isolated and this can affect morale. When an individual has the perception that their suggestions or insight is valued they are more likely to have a better work product. Take a person's feeling of contribution away and they become dejected and this can negatively affect the way they provide services to families and individuals that are experiencing abuse, neglect, or some type of traumatic family dynamic that makes basic functioning possible. Then, afterward, feed-back/follow up is provided so that everyone can be made aware of what is being done with the information gathered during the collaboration/training.—
Cumberland Region Participant

prosecuting and private, were the outliers on several items. Prosecuting attorneys were less interested (12.5%) in procedures to limit continuances than the group as a whole (45.1%). Private attorneys were much more interested (62.5%) in establishing distribution of written orders at hearings than others (38.3%). Two additional items where private attorneys stood out from the rest were legal counsel appointment reform (47.5% versus 24.8%) and detailed reasonable effort findings (40% versus 16.3%). Judges were the third group to separate themselves from the rest of the group on two items in particular. They indicated that the establishment of judicial leadership programs (48% versus 17.9%) as well as improved/increases juvenile diversion programs (60% versus 42%) were a priority. One final item with a notable difference between roles was the establishment of juvenile court case managers. Three similar disciplines, judges, CDW/DJJ, and non-judicial court personnel were all 12 percentage points or higher than the other disciplines. Perhaps they indicated this as more of a priority because of their daily experience with court proceedings.

The only notable variance by region in this item is regarding the establishment of procedures to limit continuances. Once again, as noted in the item about challenges within the child welfare system, participants from The Lakes indicated this as more of a priority than any other region (61.2%) with some regions placing it as low as 37.1% and the regions as a whole responding at 45%.

Questions Posed by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Adoption

In July 2006, the Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services created the Blue Ribbon Panel on Adoption by administrative order to review the processes and practices that lead to the termination of parental rights of adoption of children in Kentucky's child welfare system. This panel's work led to the establishment of workgroups to focus on areas in need of future study and potential action. The Panel requested that AOC take advantage of this opportunity to collect data during the regional summits regarding a few types of reform the workgroups were studying. Two topics were already covered in the survey itself: the need for training and accountability of professionals. Findings regarding these topics are covered elsewhere in this report. Therefore questions related to three additional topics were added: whether Kentucky should open court proceedings for abuse, neglect and dependency cases; the appointment of attorneys for indigent parents prior to the temporary removal hearing; and the establishment of a paternity registry.

Transparency of the Court

The potential for following the child everywhere they go seems far too great a possibility. The more people with access to information the potential for violation of confidentiality and open a slippery slope stigmatizing the child long term—Two Rivers

Regional survey participants were asked whether Kentucky should allow public access to court proceedings related to dependency, neglect and abuse cases. The vast majority of respondents (77%) said no (see chart below). Table 4 below demonstrates how respondents answered the question based on their role. DCBS staff and mental health practitioners were most likely to respond negatively, while educators and citizen foster care review board members were most likely to respond favorably. The data was also analyzed according to region (see Table 5). The only region in which the majority of participants were in favor of opening the courts was Jefferson, which is consistent with qualitative data collected.

Figure 6 Regional Participant Perceptions Regarding Opening Court Proceedings

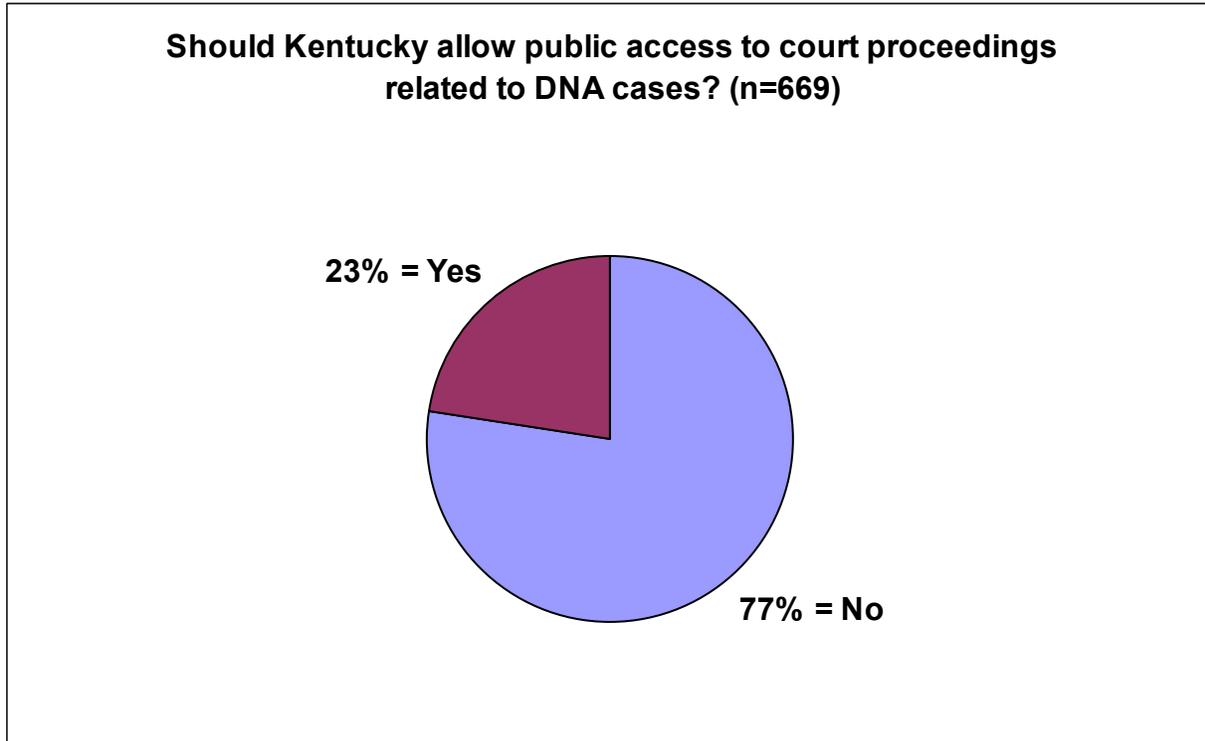


Table 4: Perceptions Regarding Opening Court Proceedings by Role

Role	Yes	No
Judge	36%	64%
Non-judicial court personnel	32%	68%
Prosecuting attorney	31%	69%
Parent attorney	22%	78%
Child attorney	33%	67%
CDW	25%	75%
CHFS	13%	87%
DJJ	26%	74%
Education	47%	53%
Mental Health	11%	89%
CFCRB	40%	60%
CASA	21%	79%
Other	22%	78%

Table 5: Perceptions Regarding Opening Court Proceedings by Region

Region	Yes	No
The Lakes	15%	85%
Two Rivers	22%	78%
Northern Bluegrass	20%	80%
Salt River Trail	22%	78%
Cumberland	17%	83%
Eastern Mountain	12%	88%
Jefferson	67%	33%
Southern Bluegrass	18%	82%
Northeastern	12%	88%

Despite the relatively clear cut majority opinion regarding the first question, open text questions that followed revealed a much more complex array of options and perceptions. Participants were asked if the decision was made to open the court, what conditions should be imposed. Those responding to this question were not restricted to only those answering “yes” to the first question. Details regarding actual responses may be found in Appendix G. In the Appendix, the regions of the respondents are noted due to the fact that AOC is currently studying this issue closely. The predominant themes from qualitative analysis of data regarding conditions under which public access to court proceedings should be allowed are as follows (N = 189):

- **At judge’s/court’s discretion (55 over all 9 regions):** The majority of responses centered on the importance of the judge having discretion over whether the court should

be opened or closed for individual cases. Responses varied regarding whether the court would be presumptively open or presumptively closed.

- **Only certain parties involved with family (26 across all 9 regions):** A substantial group of participants felt that access should be restricted to persons directly involved with the case, such as professionals and service providers, or family members. The implication here would be that the media or the general public would be excluded.
- **Under no conditions (23 across 8 regions):** Responses in this category were typically emphatic statements about why opening the court would be unsafe or additionally traumatizing for the child and/or family. The majority of these respondents were from Eastern Mountain or Cumberland service regions.
- **Only non-identifying information/no names used (21 across 7 regions):** These respondents were concerned with the privacy of children and families, yet felt that shedding light on the system would promote accountability and public understanding. Therefore they recommended that identifying information such as names not be used.
- **Under all conditions (12 across 5 regions):** These individuals suggested there were no standard conditions that would preclude opening the courts, however four respondents indicated cases deemed “unsafe”, as well as those with other compelling reasons should remain closed.
- **With approval of parties (11 across 7 regions):** These respondents believed court should only be opened upon agreement by certain parties. Some suggested that any party could request closure, while others indicated either the family or GAL should have to approve.
- **Not certain types of cases (10 across 5 regions):** Seven of these respondents said that sexual abuse cases should remain closed. The remaining expressed other opinions of characteristics of cases that should be excluded.
- **Only certain types of cases (9 across 5 regions):** Alternatively, these participants believed only certain types of cases should be open, the majority of which were juvenile justice or those involving criminal offenses.
- **Close Court Files (7 in Jefferson Region):** These individuals specified that while the proceeding should be open, court case files should remain closed.
- **Other (15):** These otherwise unclassified responses were primarily expressions of why courts should be opened.

We should be able to develop a process for opening up the juvenile court (at judges' discretion) for "need to know" individuals or relatives while still protecting identity of child.
—The Lakes Region Participant

Finally, participants were asked if public access were allowed, what additional safeguards should be made to ensure the safety and well-being of the child and family. Many of these responses fell into similar categories as above (see Appendix G for specifics) (N= 162):

- **Exclude identifying information regarding child and/or family (45 over 8 regions):** These respondents recommended protecting the privacy of families. Some suggested using only first names or numbers.
- **Only open to certain individuals (28 across 6 regions):** These participants indicated access should be restricted to certain groups. Forty-three percent advised to exclude media, while 32% said those allowed in should have a legitimate interest or “need to know.”
- **There are no effective safeguards (26 across 7 regions):** Similar to a theme in the prior question, these individuals expressed that the risk to the child and family was not worth any benefit transparency might provide.
- **Only allow with judge’s/court’s discretion to close (20 across 7 regions):** These responses indicated that by allowing the judge discretion to close proceedings on a case-by-case basis, adequate safeguards would be in place.
- **No Photographs/videos (7 across 5 regions):** These individuals felt that those attending court proceedings should not be allowed to take photographs or videos.

All DNA hearings should be open to the public, this holds all parties accountable (social workers, judges, attorneys)—Salt River Trail Participant

- **With additional security (6 in 2 regions):** Responses in this group recommended additional deputies or other forms of security be required.
- **Other (30):** These included a wide range of responses with individual suggestions, expressions of the importance of the safety of the child, or the need for judicial admonishment regarding confidentiality.

Appointment of Attorneys for Indigent Parents Prior to Temporary Removal Hearings

Another form of reform being considered by the Blue Ribbon Panel involves appointing attorneys earlier in the court process, particularly prior to the first court proceeding. Eighty-five percent of respondents agreed that this should occur. Upon analyzing responses by role (see Table 6) it can be seen that the majority of respondents in each role responded favorably. Those least likely to agree were judges and citizen foster care review board members. Responses were also analyzed by region (see Table 7).

Figure 7: Participant Perceptions Regarding Appointing Attorneys for Indigent Parents Prior to the Temporary Removal Hearing

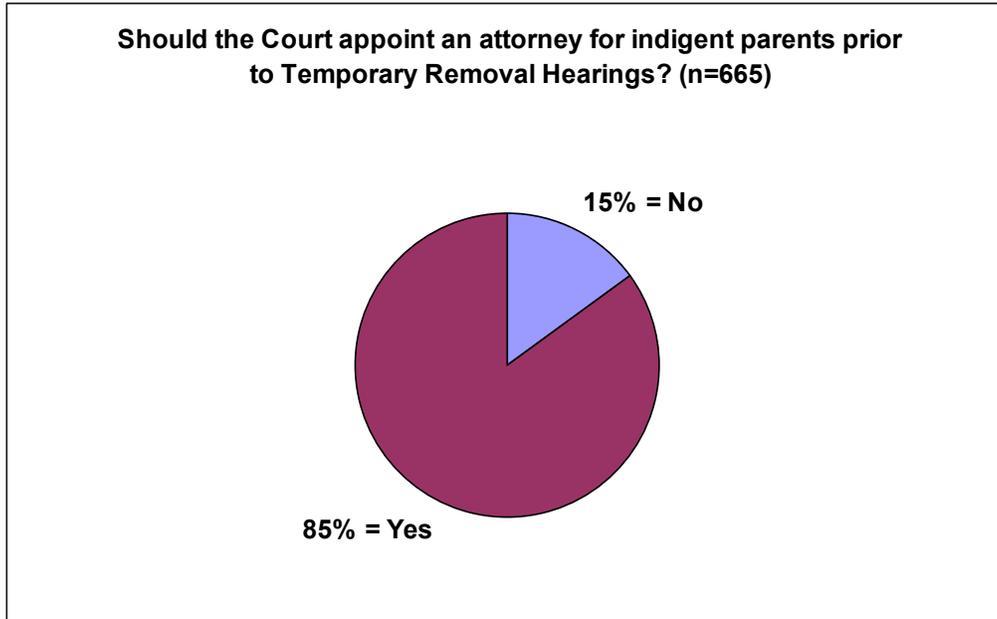


Table 6: Perceptions of Attorney Appointment by Role of Participant

Role	Yes	No
Judge	72%	28%
Non-judicial court personnel	97%	3%
Prosecuting attorney	69%	31%
Parent attorney	100%	0%
Child attorney	95%	5%
CDW	83%	17%
CHFS	88%	12%
DJJ	77%	23%
Education	92%	8%
Mental Health	84%	16%
CFCRB	73%	27%
CASA	85%	15%
Other	79%	21%

Table 7: Perceptions Regarding Attorney Appointment by Region

Region	Yes	No
The Lakes	83%	17%
Two Rivers	86%	14%
Northern Bluegrass	86%	14%
Salt River Trail	90%	10%
Cumberland	80%	20%
Eastern Mountain	80%	20%
Jefferson	97%	3%
Southern Bluegrass	85%	15%
Northeastern	76%	24%

If the court had a list of attorneys who were willing to serve in this capacity they could be appointed on a rotating basis and sent notification of the new clients and hearing at the same time the clerk's office processed a new petition.—Cumberland Participant

One of the concerns regarding statutory change in this regard is that it may be difficult to achieve in some rural areas. Therefore survey respondents were asked to answer an open text question regarding how this would be feasible in their locality (See Appendix H for details). Predominant themes based on content analysis of this data were as follows (N= 232):

- **Appoint when ECO Granted by Judge (24 across 8 regions):** This largest group believed this could be achieved by assignment of attorneys when the custody order is signed.
- **Suggestions/Issues Re: Funding/Determination of Indigence (24 across 8 regions):** Responses in this group

fell into two categories. Some indicated that funding would need to be increased in order to achieve this, although it is unclear from most of these why this would be the case, or what the funding would be used for. The second set of responses surrounded the need for the court to establish that the family was indigent before appointment occurred; however, as noted by respondents this may be difficult without a hearing or more information than is known at that time.

- **Already Doing It (21 across 7 regions):** Participants in all but two regions indicated they were already achieving this standard in their locality, however, this should not be interpreted to mean this is true region-wide.
- **Don't Know (17 across 5 regions)**
- **General Support/Rationale for Early Appointment (16 across 8 regions):** These respondents did not speak to the feasibility question but rather made a statement providing rationale for why it is a good idea.
- **Appoint and Process Notification when Petition is Filed in Clerk's Office (13 across 7 regions):** These participants suggested that when the petition is filed and the temporary removal hearing is scheduled, appointment and notification of the attorneys could occur.

Appoint at hearing and allow them to meet/discuss things, then proceed with the hearing.—Eastern Mountain Participant

- **Very Feasible (13 across 7 regions):** These responses indicated it would not be a problem in their locality.
- **Not Feasible within the 72 Hour Timeframe (12 across 3 regions):** These participants in Cumberland, The Lakes and Salt River Trail indicated it would not be possible locally.
- **Use Public Defenders (10 across 6 regions):** The public defenders or legal aid office was advocated as the source of attorneys to be feasibly appointed.
- **Would Need to Increase Number of Attorneys in the Area (10 across five regions):** These responses indicated that the current pool of attorneys practicing in their locality would need to be expanded.
- **Use List of Attorney’s Recruited for this Purpose (9 across 4 regions):** This group suggested identifying a pool of attorneys who would be willing to participate.
- **Use Attorneys Already Present on that Day in Court (9 across 4 regions):** These respondents recommended that the court appoint attorneys who already happen to be in attendance the day of the hearing.
- **Judge’s Office/Court Administrator Simply Notify Attorney to be Present (7 across 5 regions):** These responses suggested it would be a straight forward matter of the judge or court administrator notifying the attorney to be present.
- **Have Staff Attorney for Parents (6 across 4 regions):** This involved the court or AOC employing staff attorneys who are always available for this purpose.
- **Provide Parents with Notice on How to Request Appointment When Served with Summons (4 across 4 regions):** In these responses, indigent parents would be informed on how to have an attorney appointed when they received the summons to appear in court.
- **Appoint at Hearing, then Allow Time to Meet Prior to Proceeding (3 across 3 regions):** This variation on the recommendation to appoint attorneys already present on the day of the hearing indicated the hearing would then have to be suspended to allow time for consultation.
- **Cabinet Worker Provide Notice to Parent on Obtaining an Appointment if Indigent (3 across 3 regions):** Similar to the above category, the worker would notify the family during their contact with the family.
- **Other (31):** These responses either were unique or were general comments that did not seem to respond to the question directly.

Paternity Registry for Putative Fathers

Two items regarding paternity registry for putative fathers were included in the regional summit surveys. The first asked whether or not Kentucky should have a registry, the second was related to searches of other states’ registries. Eighty-one percent of respondents indicated that Kentucky should establish a paternity registry for putative fathers (see Figure 9 below). Prosecutors and parents’ attorney’s were the least likely to support this (see Tables 8 and 9 below). Seventy-six percent of respondents indicated that Kentucky should search other states’ registries prior to adoption (see Tables 10 and 11). Although this is notably a majority, perhaps

participants that did not agree were concerned about the logistics of such a task. The following charts reflect a breakdown of the responses given:

Figure 9: Participant Perceptions Regarding Establishment of a Paternity Registry

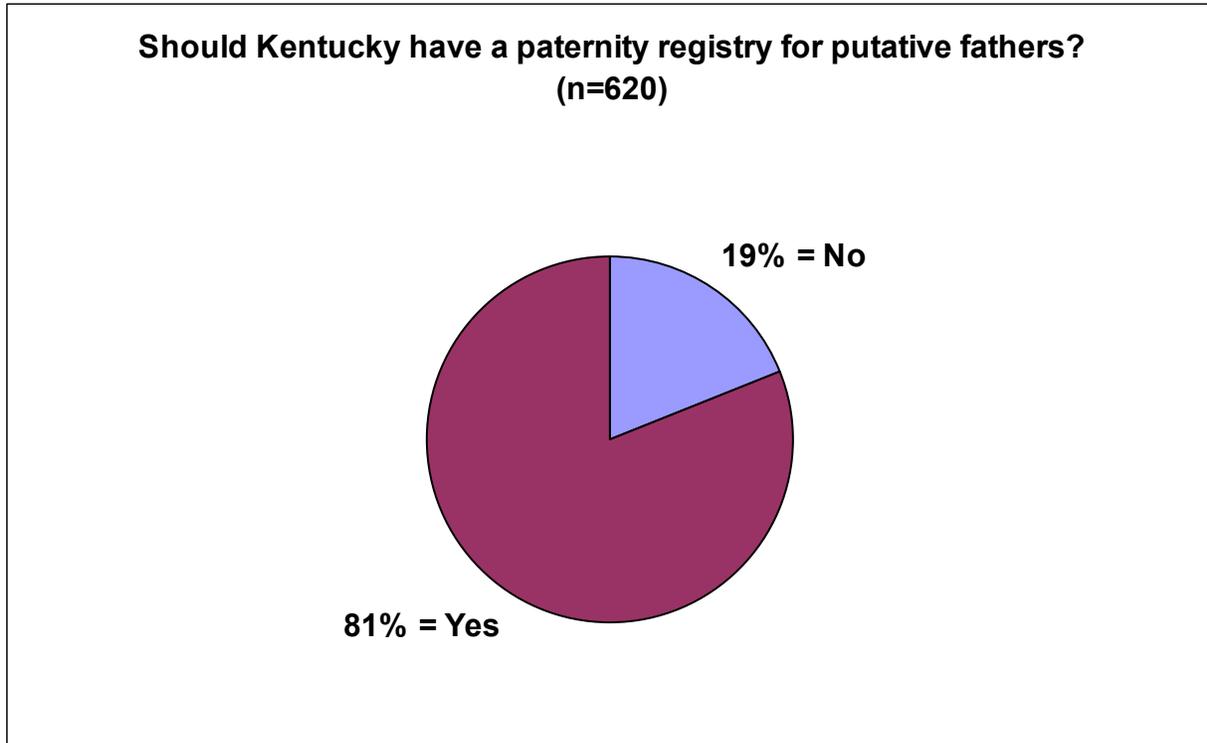


Table 8: Perceptions Regarding Paternity Registry by Role

Role	Yes	No
Judge	87%	13%
Non-judicial court personnel	79%	21%
Prosecuting attorney	60%	40%
Parent attorney	56%	44%
Child attorney	89%	11%
CDW	81%	19%
CHFS	84%	16%
DJJ	63%	37%
Education	100%	0%
Mental Health	71%	29%
CFCRB	87%	13%
CASA	83%	17%
Other	72%	28%

Table 9: Participant Perceptions Regarding Paternity Registry by Region

Region	Yes	No
The Lakes	83%	17%
Two Rivers	84%	16%
Northern Bluegrass	86%	14%
Salt River Trail	73%	27%
Cumberland	77%	23%
Eastern Mountain	74%	26%
Jefferson	87%	13%
Southern Bluegrass	81%	19%
Northeastern	85%	15%

Figure 10: Perceptions Regarding Requirement to Search Paternity Registries in Other States

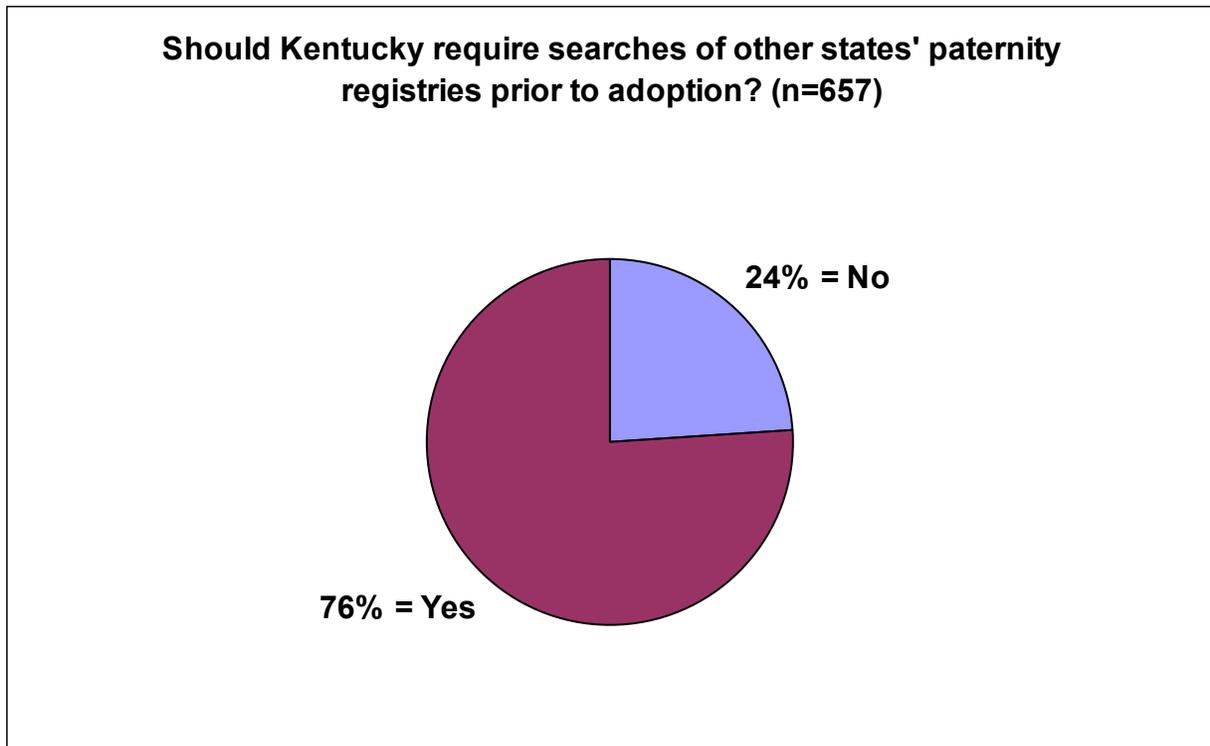


Table 10: Perceptions Regarding Searching Other Registries by Role

Role	Yes	No
Judge	91%	9%
Non-judicial court personnel	77%	23%
Prosecuting attorney	50%	50%
Parent attorney	89%	11%
Child attorney	75%	25%
CDW	86%	14%
CHFS	78%	22%
DJJ	67%	33%
Education	93%	7%
Mental Health	78%	22%
CFCRB	70%	30%
CASA	92%	8%
Other	65%	35%

Table 11: Perceptions Regarding Searching Other Registries by Region

Region	Yes	No
The Lakes	74%	26%
Two Rivers	80%	20%
Northern Bluegrass	74%	26%
Salt River Trail	69%	31%
Cumberland	74%	26%
Eastern Mountain	74%	26%
Jefferson	85%	15%
Southern Bluegrass	77%	23%
Northeastern	84%	16%

Survey participants were then asked how, if established, the registry should be structured and predominant themes were as follows (N = 125). Specific responses can be found in the Appendix:

- **Don't know (22 across 7 regions):** The fact that the most frequent response fell in this category indicates respondents were relatively unfamiliar with options in this area.
- **Maintained by Child Support Office/County Attorney (15 across 6 regions):** These responses focused on the assignment of responsibility for the registry process to the county attorney or child support office.

- **Mandatory Paternity/DNA Testing (10 across 5 regions):** It should be noted that the number of respondents in each category drops very low at this point. In this case, mandatory DNA testing was suggested.

*Perhaps it could be organized through Child Support in conjunction with Family Support through birth mothers being required to name potential father; father being notified that he has been named.—
Eastern Mountain Participant*

- **General Support/Rationale for Registry (10 across 7 regions):** Although these respondents did not offer suggestions of structure or mechanisms, they provided reinforcement for the idea in general.
- **On Internet for Public Access (9 across 5 regions):** This category includes recommendations for web-based systems, and those open for public access.
- **Establish Alleged Paternity at Birth/Hospital/Health Care Provider (7 across 5 regions):** These respondents

suggested that identification of the father should occur at the time of birth or through health care providers.

- **Patterned Upon Sex Offender Registry (6 across 4 regions):** The title encapsulates these responses.
- **Voluntary Registration of Potential Fathers (6 across 4 regions):** These emphasized this must be a voluntary process for potential fathers.
- **Computerized Database (5 across 4 regions):** Use of computerized database was noted.
- **Maintained by Courts (4 across 3 regions):** This is another category in which the response focused on the branch that should maintain it.
- **Restrict Access to Courts/Cabinet (3 across 3 regions):** These respondents focused on the need to restrict access to the information in the registry.
- **No Registry (3 across 2 regions)**
- **Maintained by Cabinet/TWIST (2 across 2 regions):** Another responsible agency was suggested by these individuals.

Not the way in has been currently proposed. It is designed to cut off rights of fathers. Would be okay if no limit on when father could register.—Jefferson Participant

- **Widely Publicized (2 across 2 regions):** These participants emphasized the need to advertise the registry broadly.
- **Other (21):** These responses defied categorization.

Perceptions from Regional Summit Participants Regarding Areas in Need of Attention

Based on preliminary analysis of data from the statewide survey, additional open text questions were included to collect more detailed information on two of the topics of notable importance: improvement of interagency/branch communication and understanding of roles, and improvement of accessibility of services locally.

What Needs to Happen to Improve Communication and Understanding of Roles

Qualitative analysis of responses regarding improving communication and understanding among professional agencies in the child welfare system revealed a number of themes described below in order of frequency (detailed response is provided in Appendix J):

*This can only be done through open communication on the local levels. The relationship between local agencies and the courts has to be so that open conversation can take place to ask questions and discuss issues as they arise. A key factor in this is allowing time and the appropriate atmosphere to form appropriate professional relationship and setting aside time to discuss and problem solve the issues and problems unique to your area.—
Cumberland Regional Participant*

- **Regular interagency meetings [177 across all 9 regions]:** The majority of responses (104) referred to the general need for interdisciplinary meetings, whether formal or informal. Thirty-seven individuals recommended that such meetings occur quarterly, while 18 suggested monthly. Eleven indicated that these meetings should be mandatory for agencies/branches involved. Approximately one quarter of the responses in this category referred to holding regular annual summits similar to those attended, or conferences.
- **Training/Cross-Training [103 across all 9 regions]:** The largest proportion recommended that cross-training should occur in general (52), while 31 individuals expressed the need for additional training for agencies but not necessarily in a cross-disciplinary manner. Twenty participants emphasized that role clarification training or opportunities should be offered.
- **Multidisciplinary Approach/Communication/Collaboration [81 across all 9 regions]:** Thirty respondents focused on the need for local agencies to work together collaboratively, while 25 emphasized enhanced communication and information sharing. Twelve individuals focused on the need for multidisciplinary case conferencing regarding individual families. Nine proposed the establishment of regional or local councils or committees. Two noted the importance of identifying a coordinator or champion to facilitate the process.
- **Strategies to Promote Information Sharing [51 across all 9 regions]:** These participants focused on how to achieve better communication. Fifteen believed confidentiality statutes or policies needed to be less strict. Fourteen emphasized a need for community resource directories/lists and newsletters. Eleven identified release of information forms or processes, and ten suggested use of technology such as email, databases and websites.
- **Professionalism/Increased Accountability [35 across all 9 regions]:** The largest subgroup in this category noted the need to hold parties accountable, and made specific comments regarding practices of concern. Seven stressed there should be less focus on turf issues, or that appropriate boundaries should be addressed across agencies. Five called for mutual respect among professionals, while two noted a need for consistency in the interpretation of statute and court practice.
- **Increase staffing/Decrease Caseload [9 across 6 regions]:** Respondents in this category noted the need to increase the workforce and/or decrease the workload for DCBS, DJJ, CDWs, judges and therapists.

- **Other:** A wide range of responses were offered that did not fall into categories

Qualitative analysis of responses regarding improving communication and understanding among professional agencies in the juvenile justice system revealed a number of themes described below in order of frequency (detailed response is provided in Appendix J). It is interesting to note that while the overall themes were consistent, the frequency of response differed here, suggesting a slightly different perception of importance. Some respondents provided the exact same response for both of these questions, while others approached them very differently.

Social workers, DJJ & CDW need to have more opportunities for cross-training and developing positive working relationships. There is too much negativity and most of that is related to a lack of knowledge about one another.—Jefferson Region Participant

- **Training/Cross-Training [105 across all 9 regions]:** Cross-training was the largest sub-theme here as well (51), with general recommendations following (30). Role clarification was also a perceived need here, being mentioned by 24 respondents.
- **Regular Interagency Meetings [87 across all 9 regions]:** Although less frequently emphasized than in child welfare, this was still a significant theme for juvenile justice. Forty-one called for general meetings among community partners. Fourteen indicated these should occur quarterly and ten monthly. Five recommended attendance be mandatory. Seventeen respondents asked for annual summits or conferences.
- **Multidisciplinary Approach/Communication/Collaboration [71 across 8 regions]:** While the child welfare-focused responses emphasized collaboration over communication, here the pattern was reversed with 32 calling for enhanced communication and 25 for collaboration. Eleven asked for individual case conferencing, and three for the establishment of councils or committees.
- **Strategies to Promote Information Sharing [38 across all 9 regions]:** Frequency of responses in sub-themes differed here as well. Thirteen recommended technological strategies, and twelve recommended resource directories. Eight noted a need for relaxing confidentiality laws or policies, with five mentioning revising release of information forms or processes.
- **Professionalism/Accountability [21 across 7 regions]:** Here, the need for less focus on turf issues and addressing boundaries was most frequently noted (9), while general calls for accountability came from seven individuals. A need for mutual respect was identified by five respondents.
- **Increased Staffing/Decreased Caseload [5 across 4 regions]:** Respondents did not name particular agencies in need of more staff or reduced workload here.
- **Other:** There was a wide range of responses that did not fall into categories.

Improving Accessibility of Treatment Resources/Services for Children and Families in the Regions

The survey did not break this topic down into two questions, but asked participants what needed to be done in general to increase local accessibility of resources and services. Responses were analyzed and the following themes emerged, in order of frequency:

I don't see much significant change until funding is made available for reform. State legislation always puts dependent children at the bottom. Invite these legislators to the court proceedings, foster care review meetings and into foster homes.—Statewide Summit Participant

these noted a particular problem in rural areas, or that waiting lists were long. Thirty-six individuals specifically believed there was a significant need for a variety of mental health services, while fifteen specified substance abuse treatment as needed. An additional 13 mentioned other specific services such as drug court or parenting classes. Eleven suggested there was a need for in-home, preventative services.

- **Funding [175 across all 9 regions]:** The majority of responses in this category were a generalized request for funding (72), while a nearly equal number asked for funding for specific services. Nineteen noted a need for free or reduced fee services. Nine identified insurance-related issues, and five recommended more grant funding be obtained.
- **More Resources/Services [156 across all 9 regions]:** Approximately half of the individuals simply noted that there was a lack of services in their area, period. Many of these noted a particular problem in rural areas, or that waiting lists were long. Thirty-six individuals specifically believed there was a significant need for a variety of mental health services, while fifteen specified substance abuse treatment as needed. An additional 13 mentioned other specific services such as drug court or parenting classes. Eleven suggested there was a need for in-home, preventative services.
- **Transportation [62 across all 9 regions]:** In addition to a lack of services in general, participants believe those that exist are inaccessible, and that families need transportation to utilize them.

Our county is in dire need of public transportation in which would help clients attend their needed services, such as parenting classes, outpatient drug treatment, etc.—Eastern Mountain Region Participant

Multidisciplinary approaches were called for by sixteen respondents, while seven focused on the need for better interagency/branch communication.

- **Education/Awareness/Coordination of Available Resources [44 across all 9 regions]:** Half of the responses in this category indicated there was a need for education regarding the services currently available. Fourteen asked for a resource directory or information source. Five focused on the need for families to be provided with resource information, while three mentioned a need for coordination of the services currently available.
- **Collaboration/Communication [23 across all 9 regions]:** Multidisciplinary approaches were called for by sixteen respondents, while seven focused on the need for better interagency/branch communication.
- **Increase Staffing/Reduce Caseloads [10 across 6 regions]:** Responses in this category tended to refer to staff in a general way rather than specifying agencies.
- **Accountability [9 across 7 regions]:** Accountability in this portion of the data referred not only to the public agencies and the court, but provider agencies as well.
- **Not an Issue [3 across 2 regions]**
- **Other:** A number of responses did not fall within specific themes.

Additional Comments Made on Survey

Content analysis was completed on open text responses offered by survey respondents. As is typical of this sort of section on a survey, comments made covered a very wide range of topics. Specific comments offered may be found in Appendix D, and should be reviewed, as it is impossible through reporting of general categories or themes to capture the richness of the recommendations made. Information regarding participants' perception of the Summits themselves or the process has been addressed in the prior Section. Beyond the Summit itself, comments fell into the following themes, in order of frequency:

Frontline workers usually work very hard at their job, but the current evaluation system is flawed and focus is on quantity rather than quality and the workers can be punished due to their "numbers." This increases the burnout rate and quality of services.—Northeastern Region Participant

- **The Need for More Community Resources (58 participants across all 10 sites):** Individuals documented that the demand far exceeds the need in terms of an array of types of community services that the system needs to serve children, youth and families. The types of resources and services requested fall into the following categories (in order of frequency): Substance abuse screening and treatment; preventative services; mental health treatment; diversion programs for youth; general, unspecified services; Court-Appointed Special Advocate programs; transportation that would enable families in rural areas to participate in other services; drug court; placement resources; visitation programs; and a list of others mentioned by only one individual.

- **Statutory/procedural changes (49 across all 10 sites):** Numerous and often detailed recommendations offered here fell into the categories of court procedures, DCBS/DJJ procedures, statutory change, and other/unspecified agency or branch procedural changes. Examples of court procedures limiting continuances, and changing docketing systems. DCBS/DJJ procedures included everything from changing the way the interstate compact functions, to dispensing with centralized intake for reports of child abuse and neglect. Some of the legislation suggested echoed findings from other data collected, such as revising the definition of emotional abuse, and requiring appointment of counsel prior to the temporary removal hearings.

Staff resources--vacancies & inexperience leads to barriers to achieving ideal assessments, planning, service provision. Also, limited resources including placements for children & treatment resources results in barrier to effective planning & service provision.—Northern Bluegrass Participant

- **Increase Funding/Staffing (43 across all 10 sites):** As was true of other data collected in this study, participants emphasized the need for increasing frontline staff, increasing overall funding for the system, increasing frontline staff salaries, and decreasing workload. While the majority specified Cabinet staff in these comments, judges, attorneys and court staff were also mentioned.
- **Concerns Regarding Out-of-Home Care (28 across 6 regions):** These statements fell into two categories. One was in regard to foster care and providers, and the

majority of these indicated there was a need for closer scrutiny and monitoring of resource parents. The second category was a request for increased services and support

for foster children and youth, such as independent living preparation and support, and educational surrogates.

- **Interagency/Branch Collaboration/Communication (33 across all 10 sites):** Many respondents emphasized the need for the courts and community agencies to work better together. Some specifically indicated more regularly scheduled opportunities for dialogue were required, such as regular local meetings of all involved in the system(s).

In regards to enhance collaboration at the local level, I believe we are doing that right now with the Regional Summits. However, this is something that I hope will continue among local agencies in the future.—Eastern Mountain Participant

- **Specific Statements Criticizing System/Agencies (23 across 7 sites):** Some used this opportunity to express frustration or dissatisfaction with specific agencies or groups, including DCBS, DJJ and the

judiciary.

- **Philosophical Approach (20 across 6 sites):** These individuals offered more of a vision or expectation of the system. Most commonly, these included focusing on children's needs and rights, working together to treat and support families, or questioning the perceived preference for returning children to their parents' homes.
- **Accountability (20 across all 10 sites):** A significant number of individuals called for increased accountability, the majority specifying particular groups of professionals, including Cabinet workers, and judges. Others indicated that they felt parents should be held more accountable, and should experience consequences for failure to make progress.

3 or 4 years in care is very damaging to children in Foster Care. This should never happen. The judges need to make a decision or they need to find another job. The fact that children have 4 or 5 workers in a year needs to be addressed. One worker never communicates to the other and this is very damaging to the child in Foster Care. Force people to do their job. The system is not broken, just enforce the rules you have.—Salt River Trail Participant

- **Family Court (9 across 5 sites):** A group of respondents called for statewide implementation of family court or standardization of family court procedures.
- **GAL/Attorney Practice (8 across 7 sites):** This group of participants called for increasing the competency or requiring certain practices among appointed counsel and prosecutors.
- **Training (8 across 3 sites):** A number of individuals indicated that training was needed for certain groups, or that multidisciplinary cross-training was needed.
- **Comments on Broader Systems (7 across 3 sites):** These comments addressed needs beyond the child welfare and juvenile justice system,

primarily regarding the educational system.

- **Local/Regional Considerations (6 across 5 sites):** A few suggested smaller regions were needed, counter to the recent decision to reduce the number of service regions in the state, or emphasized special needs of rural areas.
- **Speed Up the Time to Permanency (6 across 4 sites):** This theme involved moving children more quickly into permanent homes.
- **Other:** This category includes a wide range of comments or complaints offered that did not cluster together into themes offered by multiple respondents.

SECTION 4

Regional Summit Workgroup Findings

Questions asked during the breakout sessions were targeted at analyzing efficacy of existing services, as well as producing suggestions for new and/or improved services. Upon review, evaluators determined that while some themes were prominent across multiple regions, many responses gathered were unique to the participants' area and required region-specific categorization. For this reason, much of the information obtained is not generalizable to other areas. These results will be provided in a separate report focusing on regional findings for use in follow up activities conducted regionally.

Local Community Discussion

The first work session, which grouped participants together from each community, was focused on identifying successful existing services and resources for local families as a whole, and for local children in particular, as well as proposing ideas for creating, enhancing or expanding those services. Due to the uniqueness of each region and community in regard to available resources and identified barriers, the majority of responses were unable to be categorized with responses from other communities throughout the state. While the data gleaned from these workgroups provide a considerable amount of highly individualized information specific to each district, much of it is of limited use to other regions in Kentucky, and is therefore not included in this report. Dominant themes across districts are mentioned briefly below, and will be discussed fully in the individual reports distributed to each region.

Services for Youth

*We need to take a total
"holistic" look at the kid
and make a better plan
that will impact the child's
life in our system.—
Southern Bluegrass*

While responses to questions in this category were extremely varied, it is notable that increased access to mental and behavioral health services was most consistently listed as an important factor in providing effective services for youth. Treatment was named as one of the most successful approaches to addressing child maltreatment, juvenile public and status offenders, detainment or alternatives to detention for status offenders, and assisting in providing a continuum of care for youth. Additionally, when asked what service they would choose to create, enhance or expand for children, if given the opportunity, mental health treatment was prominently listed. Other issues repeatedly cited in regard to the above topics included specialized court (Adolescent Drug Court, Truancy Court), and diversion programs. The final question in this category was aimed at generating ideas for enhancing interdisciplinary communication. Based on preliminary analysis of the data, the most common answers to this question were regular interagency meetings and increased access to client information.

Services for Families

Prevention is key to preventing removals. Substance abuse treatment for adults and children is needed in the coal areas severely. Homeless shelters are a dire need as well. Families have needs that can not be met in our community—Cumberland Regional Participant

Provision of mental health treatment was prominently listed as an answer to each of the five questions regarding services for families. These questions asked for the most effective existing resources for engaging parents in the community, ideas for enhancement or expansion of existing services, local resources for addressing various issues, and effective resources currently provided to parents and relative caregivers in the community. Other issues repeatedly cited were transportation for families, and educational resources such as parenting classes. Mental and behavioral health problems, particularly substance use, were frequently listed as contributors to disparate outcomes for children and families in every region.

Individual Discipline Discussion

The second breakout session, which grouped participants together according to their individual disciplines (CHFS/DCBS; clerks, support workers, judicial secretaries, legal assistants, case specialists, and court administrators; DJJ; AOC; service providers; CASA, CFCRB, and adoptive/foster parents; judges, justices, and attorneys; and other disciplines) focused on Kentucky courts and communities. As mentioned above, fundamental differences exist between regions, including differences in professional procedures, existing resources, and barriers to success. As a result, many responses were region-specific, and of limited use in determining statewide agendas for reform. Therefore full analysis of these worksheets is not included in this report, and will instead be provided in the individual reports distributed to each region. A brief overview of the worksheet questions and dominant answers in each question category (judicial, executive, and legislative branch) is provided below.

Judicial Branch

Responses indicated the most effective approaches to child maltreatment are Department for Community Based Services involvement, including child removal from home, a focus on mental health services, and availability of Drug Court and Family Court in every region. Alternatives to detention were listed frequently as the most valuable approach to the detainment of status offenders. Overall, participants indicated that timeliness, changes in scheduling, and increased interaction with clients by their representatives, will contribute to docket control and improvement of court procedures.

Executive Branch

Based on the responses given, increased screening, monitoring, training, and support of foster parents, as well as a higher case worker to client ratio, would be beneficial in ensuring the safety, well-being and permanency of children in foster care. Heavy caseloads were again cited as a problem in regard to procedural changes for ensuring that youth receive adequate

representation in court. Specifically, a higher attorney to client ratio, and increased attorney/client interaction were the answers most frequently given. Access to mental health treatment was suggested repeatedly as a way to increase effectiveness of rehabilitation services for youth in detention.

Legislative Branch

Legislators need to become more involved with the problems of KY's youth and propose legislation to correct the problems mentioned at these summits.—
Northeastern Region Participant

Questions in this category focused on recommendations for changes to the dependency, neglect and abuse statutes, as well as to the juvenile statutes. The most frequent responses were a call for clarification of definitions in the statutes and consistency in maintaining them. Many suggestions were made regarding addressing the educational needs of children within the child welfare system, including provision of more educational opportunities, as well as increased awareness of those opportunities, a minimization of school transfers for children in foster care, and increased regulation and standards for home schooling.

Solution Focused Outcomes Discussion

Continued dialogue- legislators, service providers, and clients. Honesty amongst ourselves, within our systems and with the people we provide services to. We must look each other in the eye.—
Two Rivers Region Participant

The final round of workgroups pulled participants together based on their county or geographic area. This discussion was focused on identifying recommendations for solutions. The groups were asked to identify unique approaches to effectuating change and the best approach to ensuring change occurs. Finally the groups were asked to identify three priorities for revision of court procedures, legislation and services. Not all groups restricted themselves to three recommendations in each category. It should be noted that groups took different approaches to where individual recommendations might be placed, among court procedures, legislation and services. For those items that were recommended in multiple categories (such as implementation of family court, or appointing attorneys prior to the temporary removal hearing, both of which were recommended by some groups as court procedures and others as legislation) all responses are grouped together in one area so as not to dilute the power of the intent of the recommendation. For example, implementation of statewide family court is already enabled in a permissive manner in statute so all recommendations of this sort were included in court procedures. Because the content of this workgroup product have significant implications for statewide change, the findings are reported here based on content analysis. Detailed responses for each category may be found in Appendix L.

Unique Approaches to Effectuating Change

The predominant themes identified from the recommendations made by the workgroups are as follows, in order of frequency:

All agencies involved in dealing with this type of population need to educate one another on their individual programs and duties/ roles in the system. We all need to decide what purpose our programs have in the system and then all decide together how we can assist one another in carrying out what our programs are intended to do.—Eastern Mountain Region Participant

- **Multi-agency Meetings/Summits [34 groups across all 9 regions]:** The specific recommendations in this category included those that specified quarterly or monthly meetings, and those that targeted either local or regional groups. In addition, some groups recommended statewide summits be held on an on-going basis.
- **Availability of Specific Services [34 groups across all 9 regions]:** Lack of needed services is seen as a widespread issue. The types of services identified by group, in order for frequency, were: prevention, substance abuse (including drug courts), diversion, mediation, and a wide range of others.
- **General Communication and Collaboration Among Agencies [31 groups across all 9 regions]:**

Collaboration was noted slightly more frequently than improved communication. Related to this were recommendations that agencies participate in activities that help to promote understanding of the services each other provide.

- **Advocacy/Legislation [18 groups across 8 regions]:** These groups emphasized using the media and/or working with legislators, both in terms of improving public awareness and in obtaining statutory change.

Status cases should be part of dependency, neglect & abuse court to focus on the best interest of the child.—Jefferson Region Participant

- **Specific Procedural Change [13 groups across 7 regions]:** This category includes a wide range of specific activities, such as assigning individual workers to each court, providing comprehensive assessment of families, and making abbreviated referral forms for community agencies available in the court.

- **Funding [13 groups across 6 regions]:** Recommendations in this category most frequently were targeted toward the child welfare system itself, while others specified funding for programs.
- **Follow Up on Summit Process [10 groups across 7 regions]:** These groups suggested that a committee be assigned to follow through on recommendations made. This category also includes engagement of policy-makers, and an overall call for the importance of something happening as a result of this work.
- **Statewide Implementation of Family Court [10 groups across 5 regions]**
- **Cross-Training [7 groups across 5 regions]**
- **Staffing/Reducing Caseloads [7 groups across 3 regions]:** This includes a couple of groups calling for more social workers, reduction of caseloads and the increase of fees for GALs.
- **Strategies to Promote Information-Sharing [6 groups across 4 regions]:** These groups recognized that there were barriers to necessary inter-agency and branch communication, and recommended ways to address this such as web-based forms, confidentiality documents and memorandums of understanding.
- **Philosophical Approach to Change [6 groups across 3 regions]:** The groups in this category included recommendations such as thinking outside the box, listening to frontline staff and families, and aligning with other initiatives.

There should be a program for parents that forces them (those in DNA cases) to listen to older children/adults who have been through foster care/abuse/dependency/neglect situations, and can help the parents understand what is happening to their kids, including impact of removal and abuse on them. Our parents just can't put themselves in the position of the kids – amazingly, even when they have been involved in the system.—
Statewide Summit Participant

- **Input from Youth [6 groups across 4 regions]:** Some groups were clearly impacted by the foster youth panels and felt their involvement was important to change efforts.
- **Accountability [4 groups across 4 regions]:** These groups ranged in emphasis from parents to professionals to consistency in the system.
- **External Review of Process/Evaluation [3 groups across 3 regions]:** These groups recommended that objective oversight or evaluation of programs would be a priority.
- **Other [11 groups across 7 regions]:** This category includes a wide range of recommendations made by individual groups, including consistent adherence to policy and procedures, adjusting policy to account for rural environments, and treating parties in the court with respect and dignity.

The Best Approach to Ensuring Change Occurs

Predominant themes of recommendations from workgroups across the state are as follows, in order of frequency:

- **Interdisciplinary Communication/Collaborative Decision-making [29 groups across 8 regions]:** Clearly the need for agencies and branches to work together in this system is of significant importance to summit participants. There was a slightly larger proportion of these recommendations that fell in the collaboration category.

*Unless we have change, significant changes, at the legislative policy level no real changes will happen. We need more funding and without additional funding for more resources and new programs change will be slow.—*Eastern Mountain Participant

- **Legislation [23 groups across all 9 regions]:** Thirteen groups suggested that the findings from the summits should be used to enact needed legislation. Others in this category included statutory mandate and legislative priority for change.
- **Ongoing meetings/summits [21 groups across 8 regions]:** The call for regularly scheduled meetings, whether on a local, regional or statewide basis, seems to be related to the recognized need for collaboration to effect positive systems change. Some groups emphasized aspects of this process such as judicial leadership or the assignment of tasks to groups and subsequent follow up.

- **Establish Oversight Body/Coordinator to Follow Up and Track [14 groups across 7 regions]:** This represents an awareness that someone or some entity needs to take responsibility for following up on the process that has begun, and to track process. Items mentioned most frequently included naming a coordinator, and the establishment of local/regional liaisons or groups to serve this role.
- **Accountability Mechanisms [11 groups across 6 regions]:** Recommendations in this category included holding all participants accountable, open court, and the development of community buy in for the need for change.
- **Funding [10 groups across 7 regions]**

- **Set goals/timeline for implementation [9 groups across 6 regions]**
- **Advocacy [8 groups across 6 regions]:** Some of these groups recommended general advocacy regarding the need for change, and public involvement.
- **Upper Leadership to Facilitate Change [8 groups across 5 regions]:** This category includes groups naming specific leaders such as the Chief Justice or the governors office, as well as two groups calling for consistency and continuity of executive leadership.
- **Pilot programs/Evaluate effectiveness of change [6 groups across 5 regions]:** An array of specific ideas for introducing evaluation and outcomes-based decision-making were offered.
- **Increase Number of Staff/Reduce Caseload [5 groups across 3 regions]**
- **Other:** There were 31 additional suggestions that did not fall into categories with each other. They ranged from cabinet policy change to online resource directories to CEUs including ethics for attorneys.

Priorities for Revision of Court Procedures

All priorities offered were included in the analysis, even when groups offered more than three. These findings represent important information for policy-makers from all branches. Predominant themes from content analysis of the data are as follows, in order of frequency:

Require attorneys and GALs to meet with clients before court and periodically—Southern Bluegrass Region Participant

- **Require attorneys to perform certain activities [35 groups across 8 regions]:** The majority of these items involve specific activities to be completed by competent GALs, such as meeting children prior to court (the most common), and providing written reports to the court. Some items did call for more competent practice of county attorneys and parents attorneys as well. The establishment of consistent standards of attorney practice was recommended.

- **Revise docketing procedures [31 groups across 8 regions]:** These represent an overall perception that current docketing procedures are unacceptable. A number of groups indicated too much time is wasted or dockets are over-crowded. Recommended revisions included staggering, clustering and time-specific docketing.
- **Reduce continuances [30 groups across 8 regions]**

More realistic docket times so parents & workers don't spend all day in court—Northern Bluegrass Region Participant

- **Earlier/Longer/More Consistent Appointment of Attorneys [23 groups across 5 regions]:** While all of these priorities had to do with attorney appointment, they focused on different issues, including assigning them earlier (at the time of petition, for example), and keeping them involved (and paid) through the appeal process.

- **Statewide implementation of family court [21 groups across 6 regions]**
- **Improve Timeliness to Permanency/Follow Statutory Timeframes [17 groups across 7 regions]:** These groups indicated that the current process to achieve permanency for children takes too long. Some recommended simply following the timeframes already in statute, others recommended generally moving cases more quickly. The particular stage of the court process targeted included adjudications, dispositions, terminations of parental rights and adoptions.

- **Improved Communication with Parties Regarding Orders/Provide Written Orders to Parties Before Leave Court [13 groups across 8 regions]:** These groups focused on the need for families to have better, and quicker, information on what the court has ordered them to do. A few suggested providing them with a written copy before they leave court.
- **Pre-court Mediation/Pre-hearing Conferencing [11 groups across 7 regions]:** These recommendations involved increasing the use of strategies for alternative resolution or achieving party agreement outside the court proceedings.

Making courts more consistent across the state.—
Cumberland Region Participant

- **Uniform Court Practice/Consistency Across State [8 groups across 5 regions]:** These priorities reflect a perception that court practice and interpretation of statute varies tremendously from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

- **Increase Availability of Drug Court [8 groups across 6 regions]:** Both juvenile and family drug court were mentioned by some groups.
- **Focus on Safety of Child/Permanency/Best Interest [6 groups across 3 regions]:** These recommendations were more akin to an emphasis on a philosophical approach rather than changes in particular court procedures.
- **Change Number of Court Reviews [5 groups across 4 regions]:** Interestingly, groups differed on whether there should be more or less frequent court reviews.
- **Create Court Staff/Parent Advocate to explain Court Process to Family/Child [5 groups across 3 regions]:** These groups all felt a position should be established within court staff to assist families in navigating the court process.
- **Restrict Use of Dependency Finding to Those Meeting Definition [4 groups across 3 regions]**

Diversion to service provider assessment of overall needs before court process starts—
Southern Bluegrass Region Participant

- **One Judge/One Case [4 groups across 3 regions]:** These groups emphasized judicial consistency throughout the life of the case.
- **Increase Use/Availability of Diversion Programs [3 groups across 3 regions]**

- **Other [80]:** Perhaps because there is such a tremendously wide range of options for revision in court procedure, this group includes great variance in recommendations, all which were unique to one group. These include that the court avoid requiring parents to miss work for court appearances, the establishment of a more detailed form for documenting reasonable efforts to avoid a check box approach, and electronic motioning.

Priorities for Legislation

Predominant themes identified based on content analysis of group worksheets statewide were as follows, in order of frequency:

Adequate number of employees on front line & level of pay that attracts & keeps qualified staff—
Cumberland Region Participant

- **Funding for Staffing/Caseloads [38 groups across 8 regions]:** The largest subset in this group was funding additional DCBS frontline staff, followed by lowering caseloads. Another group recommended increasing the pay

to attract and retain staff. Five groups recommended establishment of family/district court judgeships.

- **Funding Overall System [26 groups across all 9 regions]**
- **Funding for Specific Services [22 groups across all 9 regions]:** The most common service type requested was substance abuse testing and treatment for adults and adolescents, followed by prevention, and then increases per diem for foster care.
- **Increase GAL/Court Appointed Counsel Fees [22 groups across 6 regions]:** The majority mentioned both guardians and parents' attorneys as needing increased payment for services, while a few restricted their recommendation to the former.
- **Revise Statutory Definitions/Procedures: Other [12 groups across 5 regions]:** This category includes changes to a wide range of statutes, including abuse, neglect and dependency, and limiting the type of cases investigated by the Cabinet.
- **Transparency of the Court System: Open Court [12 groups across 4 regions]:** The majority only stated that access to the court should be open, although a few suggested particular limits on this.

Status cases are seldom satisfactorily resolved through disposition, frequently leaving family with unresolved issues that continue to fester throughout the life of the child. Ongoing review, care and appropriate resources are provided at all stages of the legal process but after disposition changing needs render previous orders useless and service provision atrophies.—Jefferson Region Participant

- **Amend Status Offense Statutes [10 groups across 6 regions]:** The majority used the term “amend” without specificity, although a couple said they should be eliminated, and others noted both public and status offenses should remain the jurisdiction of the same judge or held in family rather than juvenile court.

across 5 regions]: The most frequent recommendation was broadening guidelines to include relatives or to include additional groups of youth. Others suggested using the same rates for kinship care as are used for foster care, and extending the timeframe relatives can qualify for kinship care.

Laws to make home school more strict—Northeastern Region Participant

- **Tighten Home Schooling Requirements [8 groups across 6 regions]:** The majority of these included strengthening requirements, although a few would increase oversight.

- **Amend Timelines: Increase Speed to Permanency [8 groups across 4 regions]:** The majority of these groups made specific recommendations for reducing the amount of time prior to making permanency decision.
- **Transparency of the Court System: Keep Court Closed [8 groups across 4 regions]**
- **Enforce Parental Accountability [8 groups across 4 regions]:** While some of these were more general statements, other groups called for stricter penalties for perpetrators and parents of status offenders.
- **Improve Educational Requirements [8 groups across 4 regions]:** Examples of group

More understanding of geography, allocation of resources in rural areas and frontline work by legislators—Eastern Mountain Region Participant

recommendations included raising the drop out age to 18 and having consistent graduation/credit requirements statewide.

- **Increase Legislative Advocacy/Involvement of Legislators in System Improvement [7 groups across 5 regions]**
- **Set Guardian Ad Litem/Court Appointed Counsel Standards/Accountability (7 groups across 4 regions):** All but one group referred only to GALs here. Some suggested statutory mandate to meet face-to-face with the child and family, to produce a written report, or, more generally, for standards to be established and enforced.
- **Revise Statutory Definitions/Procedures: Emotional Abuse [6 groups across 5 regions]:** These groups felt the definition of emotional abuse should be broadened.
- **Facilitate Information-sharing Across Agencies [6 groups across 4 regions]:** Unlike recommendations in other sections of this workgroup product, these recommendations involved legislation that would allow communication in the best interest of the child.
- **Require Consistency between Policy/Practice and Law [6 groups across 3 regions]:** the majority of these groups indicated that DCBS policy/Standards of Practice were not consistent with statute.
- **Revise Statutory Definitions/Procedures: Dependency [5 groups across 3 regions]:** These groups indicated the current definition needed to be clarified so that it was not used inappropriately.
- **Availability of Services for Foster Youth/Young Adults: Enhance Health Insurance [5 groups across 3 regions]:** These groups seemed to be responding to the fairly consistent presentation by members of the foster youth panels that the health insurance benefits provided to them after they turn 18 is inadequate, or that they should have it even if they don't extend commitment.
- **Eliminate or Change Beyond Control Statute [4 groups across 3 regions]**
- **Revise sanction/Diversion Process for Juvenile Offenders [3 groups across 3 regions]**
 - **Availability of Services for Foster Youth/Young Adults: Extending Commitment [3 groups across 3 regions]:** These groups advocated extending the commitment period, or the time limit for youth to decide to extend commitment.
 - **Amend Timelines: Other [3 groups across 3 regions]:** Although all three groups recommended timeframes be changed, each were in reference to a different statute/process
 - **Require Consistency in Procedures/Interpretation of Statutes [3 groups across 2 regions]:** These recommendations were similar to those in the court procedures section, but included the need for statutory requirement to limit variation in court practice.
- **Other [40]:** As has been true for other sections, this includes recommendations that were unique to individual groups, such as more specific guidance for juvenile disposition, charging fines and court costs for juvenile-related cases, and allowing judges to order placement changes.

*Extend the timeframe for former foster youth to come back and extend commitment after aging out—
The Lakes Region Participant*

Priorities for Services

As opposed to themes identified through content analysis, this section of the data really allowed for categorization of types of services. These types are listed below, in order of frequency:

- **Substance Abuse Programs [47 groups across all 9 regions]**
 - Treatment [38 groups across all 9 regions]
 - Screening/Testing [9 groups across 6 regions]
- **Mental Health Services [35 groups across all 9 regions]**
 - General [26 groups across all 9 regions]
 - Psychiatric Facilities [5 groups across 4 regions]
 - Specialized [4 groups across 4 regions]
- **Services for Juvenile/Status Offenders [22 groups across 8 regions]:** These included respite/shelter placements; service coordination for community service and transition services for youth returning to the community.
- **Independent Living Programs for Youth [20 groups across 6 regions]**
 - General [8 groups across 4 regions]
 - Mentoring [5 groups across 4 regions]
 - Educational [5 groups across 3 regions]
 - Support [3 groups across 2 regions]
- **Transportation [19 groups across 6 regions]**
- **Increase in General Services [17 groups across 8 regions]:** The majority of these expressed the need for overall services in rural areas.
- **Services for Foster Parents [17 groups across 7 regions]**
 - Increased Monitoring/Oversight [7 groups across 4 regions]
 - General [6 groups across 4 regions]: Recommendations here included training, support, and changes in per diem.
 - Recruitment [4 groups across 3 regions]
- **Prevention [16 groups across 6 regions]**
- **Education Programs [13 groups across 7 regions]**
 - General [7 groups across 5 regions]
 - Topic-Specific [6 groups across 4 regions]
- **Family Preservation/In Home Services [13 groups across 6 regions]**
- **Interagency Collaboration/Better Communication [12 groups across 7 regions]:** Rather than particular types of services, these groups indicated that existing agencies needed to work better together, or to wrap around families.
- **Kinship Care Programs [11 groups across 7 regions]:** Although in the service category, some of these involved expanding eligibility for kinship care, providing training and making services available to them.
- **Targeted/Comprehensive Assessment [8 groups across 6 regions]**
- **Visitation Services/Centers [8 groups across 5 regions]**
- **Information-sharing Among Agencies [6 groups across 5 regions]:** Again, unlike a request for types of services, this involved mechanisms for information exchange.
 - General [3 groups across 3 regions]
 - Resource Directory/Information on Services for Parties [3 groups across 2 regions]
- **Drug Court [6 groups across 4 regions]**
- **Parent Education [6 groups over 4 regions]**

- **Professional Training [5 groups across 5 regions]**
- **Child Care [5 groups across 4 regions]**
- **Housing [5 groups across 4 regions]**
- **Economic Development/Employment [4 groups across 3 regions]**
- **Emergency Shelters [4 groups across 3 regions]**
- **CASA [3 groups across 3 regions]**
- **Other [26]:** These unique responses included increased family team meeting facilitators, support service aides in the Cabinet; and community service personnel being available to schedule appointments with families before they leave the court room.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The information gathered throughout the Summit process is comprehensive, and far-reaching. It yields recommendations for both short-term and long-term reform, some of which would require statutory change. The majority could be achieved through administrative decision-making or collaborative work on the state and local levels. This Section will summarize the overarching findings, but cannot begin to address all of the issues that were identified or solutions proposed.

The Kentucky Summit on Children Process

I feel more hopeful that problems will be addressed and energized to be a part of the process. Also I'm leaving with even more respect and admiration for the quality of people involved in state agencies and courts.—The Lakes Region Participant

Evaluation findings certainly demonstrate that both the statewide and regional summits were positively viewed by the majority of participants. While some suggestions were made regarding how the process could be altered, by and large, participants found the process to be informative, and more importantly energizing, in beginning a process of systemic reform. In terms of the educational aspect of the process, the foster youth panels were clearly the most valuable. Clearly not enough opportunity has existed for the professionals and volunteers to hear from the children and youth impacted by the system. Perhaps the most notable comment regarding the process from participants was a perception that not enough judges, attorneys, court personnel, legislators and educators were present. This is likely related to the very ambitious timeframe set for completion of the process. It is a significant accomplishment that a minimum of 1600 people participated, and due to issues with definitive record keeping likely significantly more individuals attended at least a portion of the summits.

The second finding of significant import is that participants desired follow up. All methodologies pointed to the fact that there was consensus on the need for this to be beginning of a process rather than an end in itself. Respondents hope to see the information collected yield procedural and in some cases legislative change. The data collected certainly suggests momentum for local and regional collaborative work to has begun. This momentum will likely require facilitation on a central level, however, to keep it focused and moving except in the most active areas.

Aspects of the System in Need of Reform

There was significant agreement across both the quantitative and the qualitative data collected on the majority of the findings regarding what needs to be addressed, and potential solutions to be considered. The top five aspects of the child welfare and court system hampering

timely achievement of permanency were identified as miscommunication among agencies, Cabinet workload, lack of awareness/understanding of roles of other agencies/professionals, lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families, and court continuances. Regarding the Juvenile Justice System, the list is the same but only in differing order: miscommunication, lack/accessibility of resources and services, lack of awareness/understanding of roles, court continuances, and DJJ workload.

KY needs to place children's needs first and make policies, money, homes, etc. for these children and quit trying to make these changes through the cabinet for HFS only. The state has to take responsibility.—
Eastern Mountain Region Participant

When asked which aspect of the overall child welfare system and court process on which reform should be focused, the three top responses were the child protection and service delivery process prior to filing the emergency custody order, focus on broader systemic issues (training, procedural changes such as reduction in paperwork, increase staff/reduce caseload, etc.), and the termination of parental rights process. For the overall status/delinquency process the focus of reform was recommended to be involvement prior to the youth being charged, diversion, and post-disposition services. The broader systemic issues emphasized procedural changes regarding CDW and DJJ practice, and a shift in philosophical approach to

focus on underlying issues in the family. Overall, respondents felt the type of general reform needed to create a system of care for children and youth was the following: allocation of increased resources to the system, enhanced collaboration on a local level, and evaluation of child welfare and court-related programs.

Survey respondents were offered the opportunity to select from a list of innovative court practices that they believed should be implemented. Although there was positive response to a wide range of options, those five selected by the largest number of individuals were: family drug court, a one judge/one case policy, multidisciplinary training, procedures to limit continuances, and court/agency/community collaboratives. This demonstrates a tremendous amount of energy and interest across the state on undertaking creative initiatives. The direct relationship between the issues identified needing reform, and the solutions advocated should not be missed.

Issues Being Studied by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Adoption

A few questions were added to the survey completed at regional summits to collect data on changes being considered by the above-named panel. The need for professional training and a significant desire for accountability of the systems and the professionals working within it were clearly documented in other aspects of the study. Interestingly, despite a resounding call for systemic and professional accountability in the data collected, the majority of survey respondents expressed opposition to allowing public access to dependency, neglect and abuse proceedings. This being said, twelve workgroups across the state identified opening the courts as one of three legislative priorities. In fact, setting aside the priorities related to increased funding, it was the third most widespread legislative priority, suggesting that this very complicated issue requires further study. Participants identified many conditions under which the court should be opened, the most common of which was judicial discretion. The second most frequently noted condition was allowing only certain parties who were involved with the family to be present. If access

were allowed, the most frequently recommended safeguards to ensure the safety and well-being of the child and family were excluding identifying information in the proceedings, and, again, only open the court to certain individuals. Of the latter group of individuals, over 40% recommended excluding the media.

The vast majority of survey participants favored appointment of attorneys for indigent parents prior to temporary removal hearings. When asked how this would be feasibly locally, a number of recommendations were offered including appointment at the time an ECO was signed by the judge. Respondents also favored creation of a paternity registry for putative fathers, as well as requiring a search of other states' registries prior to adoption, however when asked how it should be structured the largest group of respondents indicated they did not know, followed by recommending it be maintained by the county attorney's child support offices.

Priorities Identified by Workgroups from Across the State

Unique Approaches to Effectuating Change

Interagency meetings coordinated by local judges. No one else seems to be able to get everyone to the table.—Two Rivers Region Participant

The two approaches recommended by the most workgroups in all regions were multi-agency/branch meetings and increasing the availability of specific services, which is clearly a widespread and not easily resolved issue. There was a significant emphasis on the need for continued local collaboration to achieve systems change. Finally a need for advocacy and legislative change was identified.

The Best Approach to Ensuring Change Occurs

The need for interdisciplinary communication and collaborative decision-making was the most frequently named strategy for keeping change on track. Second, legislation, followed by ongoing meetings and the establishment of an oversight body or coordinator were identified as important.

Priorities for Revision of Court Procedures

Each party upon leaving court should receive a signed, dated copy of the judge's orders.—Southern Bluegrass Region Participant

Workgroups generated a very wide range of valuable recommendations for revision of court procedures. The priority of the largest number of groups was requiring attorneys to perform certain activities. Most of these involved establishing and holding guardians ad litem accountable to practice standards, although others focused on parents' and county attorneys. Revision of docketing procedures was the second most frequently identified priority, followed closely by reducing continuances. Statewide implementation of family court was also requested by a large number of workgroups, as well as changing procedures to speed up the timeframe for achieving permanency for children.

Priorities for Legislation

*Our most valuable assets in this state are our children. More money needed for KY child welfare system.—
Jefferson Region
Participant*

The four top priorities across workgroups and across the state involved increasing funding: for staff and reduction of caseloads, for the overall system, for specific services (most notably substance abuse treatment), and for increasing fees for GALs and court appointed counsel. Beyond funding, priorities were to revise statutory definitions and procedures, opening the DNA court proceedings, and amending status office statutes.

Priorities for Services

The need for more services for families and children echoes throughout the entire study. In this process workgroups were asked to prioritize them. The greatest need, as measured by the number of workgroups identifying it across the state is for substance abuse programs, followed by mental health treatment. Services for juvenile and status offenders were also identified as being of substantial importance, followed by independent living services for foster youth and young adults.

Recommendations for Overarching Issues to be Addressed

The following overarching issues cannot really be assigned in particular order, but represent those themes rising up from analysis of data collected throughout the study. By and large they are not new, as the majority of them were identified in the 2005 Court Improvement Reassessment and represent factors which must be addressed in a developmental fashion over time. The most significant conclusion to be drawn is that a systemic approach must be taken, which involves work on the state level, but very importantly also on the regional and local levels.

Multi-agency and Branch Collaboration and Communication

*Each area needs a well placed administrator to champion communication and cooperation between agencies and must start at the top.—
Northeastern Region
Participant*

Systems as complex as Kentucky's child welfare and juvenile justice entities require ongoing multidisciplinary effort. In order to improve communication and understanding of roles among professional agencies, summit participants recommended an obvious yet complicated solution—regular interagency meetings. Despite statewide recognition of this need, this probably cannot be left to local initiative, and will require some state level support and facilitation if it is to be achieved consistently across the Commonwealth. Cross-training, and an overall multidisciplinary approach were also noted as important. Formulation of strategies to promote information sharing regarding confidential information such as those identified by participants will likely be required.

Improving Accessibility to Treatment Resources and Services for Children and Families

Without question, there is a documented desperate need for more services across the state, particularly in rural areas. To address this, it will take funding. We cannot expect to help families resolve the issues associated with child maltreatment and status and delinquent behaviors without addressing the family and individual dynamics contributing to them, and this requires intervention beyond that which DCBS and DJJ can provide. The need for a variety of mental health, substance abuse, and other sorts of services was passionately expressed in the data collected. Availability of services, however, is not the only problem. Participants across the state identified lack of transportation as a tremendous barrier, and others noted the need for awareness and coordination of existing services.

Staffing and Professional Practice

We need to focus more on helping parents become stable, get treatment, etc. because until parents address their own problems there is very little hope they can provide a stable life for their kids—
Cumberland Region
Participant

The call for more staff in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are not new. It is important to recognize, however, that our findings suggest this is not limited to DCBS and DJJ, but includes a need for more judges, CDWs and attorneys working in these systems. The participants also emphasized the need to offer adequate pay for these professionals so that competent staff are recruited and retained. The findings also emphasize that this should go hand and hand with a process for promoting competent and effective practice. Throughout this report are recommendations for procedural changes that respondents believe are in order, such as earlier appointment of attorneys, time-specific docketing, GALs interviewing children, diversion and intervening with the families of status offenders, and comprehensive risk assessment and case planning. The vast majority of procedural and practice changes could be instituted without additional funding or statutory change. A clear message regarding the need for mandated training for all disciplines was sent by Summit participants.

Accountability

There needs to be accountability for all disciplines including the courts, the cabinet, DJJ and the school systems, and families need to be helped with multiple issues and wrap around services not just one issue—
Salt River Trail
Participant

Related to professional practice is accountability, and there is no question there is significant recognition of the need for professional accountability mechanisms. This theme emerged in nearly every analysis of sections of qualitative survey data as well as the work group products. The individuals across disciplines participating in the Summits are calling for oversight processes, and truly no professional group was left unmentioned regarding the need for enhanced accountability. Certainly the question of whether to open the courts, and if so under what circumstances, arises from this discussion. Participants clearly want accountability and yet they want to protect the safety and well-being of children and families at

the same time. A wide range of strategies for promoting professionalism and accountability will likely need to be considered to promote system enhancement.

Next Steps

The issues are systemic and will require a systemic response-across all agencies and points in process.—
Northern Bluegrass Participant

It is of critical importance, based on analysis of the information collected throughout the Summit process, to appreciate two major findings: 1) a tremendous amount was accomplished through this initiative alone, in the education of individuals but more importantly in the engagement of them in multidisciplinary dialogue regarding the systems in which they work on a daily basis; and, 2) there is a tremendous amount of work left to be done. This process has yielded a voluminous yet rich body of information on which the Administrative Office of the Courts and its partnering agencies and bodies can rely to drive reform efforts. The process has also yielded a significant expectation on the part of participants statewide that something will be done with this information, and that this is the first step in a multiyear process of developing a system of care for children and youth.

*Don't let the ball drop!
Everyone I've spoken to says that this has been needed for a long time and we can't afford to lose the momentum.—*
Statewide Summit Participant

Findings suggest that a parallel approach must be taken—partnering organizations on a state level are called to analyze the findings and effect administrative changes, and local collaboration must take place to plan and implement strategies designed to enhance the system in individual jurisdictions, building on available strengths and needs. The Chief Justice began a critical process by asking that Kentucky undertake a Summit on Children. In follow up, leadership will be required. In the end, it will be up to each of the participants in the Summit process to be engaged in efforts to achieve sustainable change to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of our children and youth.

Thank you for the Summit! I believe that this is the beginning of a journey for better change for our children. The children are what it's all about!!!—Statewide Summit Participant

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Issues or Aspects of Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Court Process

APPENDIX B: Aspects of Process on Which to Focus Reform

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Appendix A: Issues or Aspects of Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Court Process

Q9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children?

	MISCOMMUNICATION		AWARENESS OF ROLES		DOCKETING		SCHEDULING HEARINGS		CONTINUANCES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	632	71.8%	549	62.4%	246	28.0%	254	28.9%	438	49.8%
Judge	38	76.0%	31	62.0%	12	24.0%	6	12.0%	18	36.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	33	68.8%	30	62.5%	9	18.8%	14	29.2%	24	50.0%
Prosecuting attorney	15	48.4%	9	29.0%	3	9.7%	3	9.7%	7	22.6%
Private attorney	20	48.8%	16	39.0%	10	24.4%	12	29.3%	12	29.3%
CDW/DJJ	105	84.7%	92	74.2%	27	21.8%	25	20.2%	65	52.4%
CHFS	204	68.2%	186	62.2%	108	36.1%	112	37.5%	191	63.9%
CASA / CFCRB	65	73.9%	56	63.6%	28	31.8%	29	33.0%	29	33.0%
Other	149	76.4%	127	65.1%	48	24.6%	51	26.2%	89	45.6%

- Miscommunication among agencies
- Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
- Docketing procedures
- Scheduling of hearings
- Continuances

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

	COMPETENT PROSECUTION		PARENT REPRESENTATION		CHILDREN REPRESENTATION		MULTIPLE JUDGES		COMPETENT ASSESSMENT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	206	23.4%	206	23.4%	354	40.2%	161	18.3%	252	28.6%
Judge	10	20.0%	12	24.0%	13	26.0%	2	4.0%	15	30.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	10	20.8%	10	20.8%	11	22.9%	11	22.9%	12	25.0%
Prosecuting attorney	2	6.5%	4	12.9%	5	16.1%	2	6.5%	6	19.4%
Private attorney	7	17.1%	11	26.8%	12	29.3%	3	7.3%	20	48.8%
CDW/DJJ	20	16.1%	20	16.1%	36	29.0%	25	20.2%	33	26.6%
CHFS	122	40.8%	71	23.7%	143	47.8%	52	17.4%	66	22.1%
CASA / CFCRB	14	15.9%	23	26.1%	48	54.5%	22	25.0%	24	27.3%
Other	20	10.3%	54	27.7%	84	43.1%	43	22.1%	76	39.0%

Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney's Office
 Competent legal representation for parents
 Competent legal representation for children (Guardian ad litem)
 Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case
 Competent assessment and case planning with families

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

	JUDICIAL WORKLOAD		COURT CLERK WORKLOAD		CABINET WORKLOAD		WRITTEN ORDERS		REUNIFY FAMILIES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	297	33.8%	143	16.3%	631	71.7%	178	20.2%	176	20.0%
Judge	15	30.0%	6	12.0%	37	74.0%	7	14.0%	5	10.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	19	39.6%	13	27.1%	30	62.5%	8	16.7%	12	25.0%
Prosecuting attorney	11	35.5%	3	9.7%	18	58.1%	8	25.8%	4	12.9%
Private attorney	6	14.6%	4	9.8%	24	58.5%	7	17.1%	16	39.0%
CDW/DJJ	43	34.7%	28	22.6%	58	46.8%	18	14.5%	35	28.2%
CHFS	109	36.5%	46	15.4%	256	85.6%	73	24.4%	27	9.0%
CASA / CFCRB	33	37.5%	14	15.9%	64	72.7%	19	21.6%	26	29.5%
Other	61	31.3%	28	14.4%	142	72.8%	37	19.0%	49	25.1%

Judicial workload

Court clerk workload

Cabinet workload

Distribution of written orders to parties

Failure of Cabinet to make reasonable efforts to reunify families or achieve permanency for children

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

	TREATMENT RESOURCES		JUDICIAL REVIEW		PERMANENT PLACEMENT		TIMELY HEARINGS		FILING TERMINATION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	496	56.4%	98	11.1%	347	39.4%	172	19.5%	255	29.0%
Judge	32	64.0%	2	4.0%	24	48.0%	2	4.0%	12	24.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	20	41.7%	4	8.3%	12	25.0%	5	10.4%	13	27.1%
Prosecuting attorney	16	51.6%	0	.0%	8	25.8%	1	3.2%	4	12.9%
Private attorney	26	63.4%	1	2.4%	11	26.8%	1	2.4%	11	26.8%
CDW/DJJ	67	54.0%	22	17.7%	48	38.7%	15	12.1%	24	19.4%
CHFS	192	64.2%	32	10.7%	123	41.1%	78	26.1%	95	31.8%
CASA / CFCRB	36	40.9%	9	10.2%	41	46.6%	22	25.0%	43	48.9%
Other	106	54.4%	28	14.4%	80	41.0%	47	24.1%	53	27.2%

Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families in our region

Lack of judicial review of cases post-disposition

Lack of permanent placement resources for children

Failure to hold timely permanency hearings

Delay in filing termination of parental rights petitions

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

	CUSTODY HEARINGS		ADOPTION PETITIONS		PARENTAL RIGHTS TERMINATION		APPEALS PROCESS		ABSENT PARENTS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	155	17.6%	180	20.5%	171	19.4%	127	14.4%	323	36.7%
Judge	6	12.0%	12	24.0%	3	6.0%	5	10.0%	26	52.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	5	10.4%	8	16.7%	7	14.6%	7	14.6%	17	35.4%
Prosecuting attorney	1	3.2%	3	9.7%	2	6.5%	5	16.1%	8	25.8%
Private attorney	2	4.9%	6	14.6%	0	.0%	7	17.1%	12	29.3%
CDW/DJJ	19	15.3%	18	14.5%	11	8.9%	11	8.9%	35	28.2%
CHFS	70	23.4%	56	18.7%	78	26.1%	59	19.7%	134	44.8%
CASA / CFCRB	27	30.7%	36	40.9%	30	34.1%	16	18.2%	32	36.4%
Other	25	12.8%	41	21.0%	40	20.5%	17	8.7%	59	30.3%

- Delay in scheduling permanent relative custody hearings
- Delay in filing adoption petitions
- Difficulty in scheduling termination of parental rights/adoption hearings
- Appeals process
- Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

	RELATIVE PLACEMENT RESOURCES		CONCURRENT PLANNING		INVOLVE CAREGIVER – COURT PROCEEDINGS		PARENT’S RIGHTS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	252	28.6%	195	22.2%	243	27.6%	196	22.3%
Judge	19	38.0%	6	12.0%	11	22.0%	4	8.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	16	33.3%	11	22.9%	16	33.3%	10	20.8%
Prosecuting attorney	8	25.8%	9	29.0%	5	16.1%	4	12.9%
Private attorney	21	51.2%	9	22.0%	8	19.5%	7	17.1%
CDW/DJJ	31	25.0%	23	18.5%	25	20.2%	25	20.2%
CHFS	83	27.8%	51	17.1%	69	23.1%	67	22.4%
CASA / CFCRB	25	28.4%	27	30.7%	39	44.3%	24	27.3%
Other	49	25.1%	58	29.7%	70	35.9%	55	28.2%

Failure to identify, locate or engage relative placement resources

Lack of diligent concurrent planning efforts

Failure to involve foster parents or relative caregivers in court proceedings

Failure to inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children?

	MISCOMMUNICATION		AWARENESS OF ROLES		DOCKETING		SCHEDULING HEARINGS		CONTINUANCES	
Regions	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	112	70.9%	101	63.9%	47	29.7%	52	32.9%	67	42.4%
The Lakes	54	80.6%	47	70.1%	20	29.9%	16	23.9%	47	70.1%
Two Rivers	55	73.3%	50	66.7%	22	29.3%	24	32.0%	38	50.7%
Northern Bluegrass	72	75.8%	65	68.4%	30	31.6%	24	25.3%	42	44.2%
Salt River Trail	50	66.7%	47	62.7%	20	26.7%	22	29.3%	31	41.3%
Cumberland	83	76.9%	61	56.5%	29	26.9%	27	25.0%	51	47.2%
Eastern Mountain	63	67.0%	55	58.5%	30	31.9%	35	37.2%	69	73.4%
Jefferson	50	68.5%	46	63.0%	19	26.0%	20	27.4%	29	39.7%
Southern Bluegrass	53	62.4%	47	55.3%	13	15.3%	17	20.0%	36	42.4%
Northeastern	39	79.6%	29	59.2%	16	32.7%	17	34.7%	27	55.1%
Total	631	71.8%	548	62.3%	246	28.0%	254	28.9%	437	49.7%

Miscommunication among agencies
Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
Docketing procedures
Scheduling of hearings
Continuances

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

Regions	COMPETENT PROSECUTION		PARENT REPRESENTATION		CHILDREN REPRESENTATION		MULTIPLE JUDGES		COMPETENT ASSESSMENT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	36	22.8%	44	27.8%	54	34.2%	25	15.8%	63	39.9%
The Lakes	17	25.4%	16	23.9%	51	76.1%	14	20.9%	14	20.9%
Two Rivers	14	18.7%	20	26.7%	40	53.3%	14	18.7%	26	34.7%
Northern Bluegrass	34	35.8%	21	22.1%	31	32.6%	11	11.6%	18	18.9%
Salt River Trail	17	22.7%	21	28.0%	26	34.7%	11	14.7%	21	28.0%
Cumberland	25	23.1%	26	24.1%	40	37.0%	25	23.1%	29	26.9%
Eastern Mountain	25	26.6%	16	17.0%	40	42.6%	22	23.4%	25	26.6%
Jefferson	12	16.4%	17	23.3%	22	30.1%	12	16.4%	27	37.0%
Southern Bluegrass	8	9.4%	13	15.3%	29	34.1%	11	12.9%	17	20.0%
Northeastern	18	36.7%	12	24.5%	20	40.8%	16	32.7%	12	24.5%
Total	206	23.4%	206	23.4%	353	40.2%	161	18.3%	252	28.7%

Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney's Office
 Competent legal representation for parents
 Competent legal representation for children (Guardian ad litem)
 Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case
 Competent assessment and case planning with families

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

Regions	JUDICIAL WORKLOAD		COURT CLERK WORKLOAD		CABINET WORKLOAD		WRITTEN ORDERS		REUNIFY FAMILIES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	52	32.9%	18	11.4%	94	59.5%	28	17.7%	28	17.7%
The Lakes	18	26.9%	8	11.9%	48	71.6%	8	11.9%	6	9.0%
Two Rivers	34	45.3%	16	21.3%	50	66.7%	11	14.7%	23	30.7%
Northern Bluegrass	34	35.8%	21	22.1%	68	71.6%	19	20.0%	14	14.7%
Salt River Trail	19	25.3%	19	25.3%	49	65.3%	25	33.3%	14	18.7%
Cumberland	32	29.6%	11	10.2%	85	78.7%	21	19.4%	20	18.5%
Eastern Mountain	38	40.4%	15	16.0%	68	72.3%	23	24.5%	16	17.0%
Jefferson	35	47.9%	15	20.5%	62	84.9%	18	24.7%	25	34.2%
Southern Bluegrass	15	17.6%	10	11.8%	68	80.0%	13	15.3%	19	22.4%
Northeastern	20	40.8%	10	20.4%	38	77.6%	11	22.4%	10	20.4%
Total	297	33.8%	143	16.3%	630	71.7%	177	20.1%	175	19.9%

Judicial workload

Court clerk workload

Cabinet workload

Distribution of written orders to parties

Failure of Cabinet to make reasonable efforts to reunify families or achieve permanency for children

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

Regions	TREATMENT RESOURCES		JUDICIAL REVIEW		PERMANENT PLACEMENT		TIMELY HEARINGS		FILING TERMINATION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	89	56.3%	12	7.6%	63	39.9%	25	15.8%	50	31.6%
The Lakes	46	68.7%	8	11.9%	31	46.3%	13	19.4%	22	32.8%
Two Rivers	31	41.3%	12	16.0%	28	37.3%	17	22.7%	19	25.3%
Northern Bluegrass	56	58.9%	12	12.6%	37	38.9%	14	14.7%	34	35.8%
Salt River Trail	44	58.7%	7	9.3%	28	37.3%	18	24.0%	19	25.3%
Cumberland	67	62.0%	13	12.0%	37	34.3%	21	19.4%	29	26.9%
Eastern Mountain	47	50.0%	12	12.8%	38	40.4%	28	29.8%	37	39.4%
Jefferson	37	50.7%	11	15.1%	34	46.6%	11	15.1%	15	20.5%
Southern Bluegrass	44	51.8%	3	3.5%	34	40.0%	10	11.8%	18	21.2%
Northeastern	34	69.4%	8	16.3%	17	34.7%	15	30.6%	12	24.5%
Total	495	56.3%	98	11.1%	347	39.5%	172	19.6%	255	29.0%

- Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families in our region
- Lack of judicial review of cases post-disposition
- Lack of permanent placement resources for children
- Failure to hold timely permanency hearings
- Delay in filing termination of parental rights petitions

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

Regions	CUSTODY HEARINGS		ADOPTION PETITIONS		PARENTAL RIGHTS TERMINATION		APPEALS PROCESS		ABSENT PARENTS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	26	16.5%	37	23.4%	30	19.0%	26	16.5%	57	36.1%
The Lakes	10	14.9%	14	20.9%	15	22.4%	12	17.9%	23	34.3%
Two Rivers	12	16.0%	15	20.0%	15	20.0%	16	21.3%	21	28.0%
Northern Bluegrass	20	21.1%	17	17.9%	21	22.1%	13	13.7%	28	29.5%
Salt River Trail	11	14.7%	11	14.7%	17	22.7%	11	14.7%	38	50.7%
Cumberland	22	20.4%	17	15.7%	16	14.8%	11	10.2%	44	40.7%
Eastern Mountain	23	24.5%	24	25.5%	23	24.5%	11	11.7%	39	41.5%
Jefferson	8	11.0%	13	17.8%	11	15.1%	13	17.8%	24	32.9%
Southern Bluegrass	15	17.6%	17	20.0%	14	16.5%	4	4.7%	27	31.8%
Northeastern	8	16.3%	15	30.6%	9	18.4%	10	20.4%	22	44.9%
Total	155	17.6%	180	20.5%	171	19.5%	127	14.4%	323	36.7%

- Delay in scheduling permanent relative custody hearings
- Delay in filing adoption petitions
- Difficulty in scheduling termination of parental rights/adoption hearings
- Appeals process
- Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? - Continued

Regions	RELATIVE PLACEMENT RESOURCES		CONCURRENT PLANNING		INVOLVE CAREGIVER – COURT PROCEEDINGS		PARENT’S RIGHTS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	59	37.3%	38	24.1%	41	25.9%	28	17.7%
The Lakes	15	22.4%	12	17.9%	19	28.4%	16	23.9%
Two Rivers	18	24.0%	20	26.7%	21	28.0%	17	22.7%
Northern Bluegrass	17	17.9%	18	18.9%	17	17.9%	28	29.5%
Salt River Trail	28	37.3%	21	28.0%	24	32.0%	20	26.7%
Cumberland	30	27.8%	24	22.2%	28	25.9%	25	23.1%
Eastern Mountain	23	24.5%	19	20.2%	28	29.8%	19	20.2%
Jefferson	26	35.6%	12	16.4%	26	35.6%	19	26.0%
Southern Bluegrass	23	27.1%	20	23.5%	19	22.4%	14	16.5%
Northeastern	13	26.5%	10	20.4%	20	40.8%	10	20.4%
Total	252	28.7%	194	22.1%	243	27.6%	196	22.3%

Failure to identify, locate or engage relative placement resources

Lack of diligent concurrent planning efforts

Failure to involve foster parents or relative caregivers in court proceedings

Failure to inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases?

	MISCOMMUNICATION		AWARENESS OF ROLES		DOCKETING		SCHEDULING HEARINGS		CONTINUANCES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	505	61.7%	423	51.7%	153	18.7%	150	18.3%	267	32.6%
Judge	20	40.8%	19	38.8%	6	12.2%	6	12.2%	10	20.4%
Non-judicial court personnel	26	55.3%	22	46.8%	3	6.4%	4	8.5%	12	25.5%
Prosecuting attorney	6	21.4%	6	21.4%	3	10.7%	1	3.6%	5	17.9%
Private attorney	8	22.9%	6	17.1%	2	5.7%	3	8.6%	2	5.7%
CDW/DJJ	94	75.2%	85	68.0%	33	26.4%	29	23.2%	65	52.0%
CHFS	178	63.8%	154	55.2%	53	19.0%	55	19.7%	103	36.9%
CASA / CFCRB	39	52.7%	29	39.2%	14	18.9%	17	23.0%	13	17.6%
Other	132	74.2%	99	55.6%	39	21.9%	35	19.7%	57	30.0%

Miscommunication among agencies
Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
Docketing procedures
Scheduling of hearings
Continuances

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? – Continued

	COMPETENT PROSECUTION		PARENT REPRESENTATION		CHILDREN REPRESENTATION		COMPETENT ASSESSMENT		MULTIPLE JUDGES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	136	16.6%	114	13.9%	209	25.6%	166	20.3%	119	14.5%
Judge	5	10.2%	9	18.4%	10	20.4%	11	22.4%	3	6.1%
Non-judicial court personnel	5	10.6%	6	12.8%	9	19.1%	6	12.8%	2	4.3%
Prosecuting attorney	2	7.1%	2	7.1%	2	7.1%	4	14.3%	1	3.6%
Private attorney	4	11.4%	3	8.6%	8	22.9%	12	34.3%	1	2.9%
CDW/DJJ	25	20.0%	16	12.8%	31	24.8%	22	17.6%	18	14.4%
CHFS	66	23.7%	35	12.5%	69	24.7%	41	14.7%	36	12.9%
CASA / CFCRB	7	9.5%	9	12.2%	20	27.0%	16	21.6%	19	25.7%
Other	22	12.4%	34	19.1%	60	33.7%	53	29.8%	39	21.9%

Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney's Office
 Competent legal representation for parents
 Competent legal representation for children
 Competent assessment and case planning with youth and families
 Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? - Continued

	JUDICIAL WORKLOAD		COURT CLERK WORKLOAD		DJJ STAFF WORKLOAD		WRITTEN ORDERS		INAPPROPRIATE DETAINMENT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	214	26.2%	132	16.1%	247	30.2%	116	14.2%	192	23.5%
Judge	9	18.4%	5	10.2%	14	28.6%	3	6.1%	5	10.2%
Non-judicial court personnel	12	25.5%	11	23.4%	10	21.3%	5	10.6%	9	19.1%
Prosecuting attorney	6	21.4%	3	10.7%	8	28.6%	3	10.7%	2	7.1%
Private attorney	1	2.9%	2	5.7%	5	14.3%	6	17.1%	7	20.0%
CDW/DJJ	37	29.6%	25	20.0%	43	34.4%	16	12.8%	38	30.4%
CHFS	75	26.9%	38	13.6%	87	31.2%	45	16.1%	73	26.2%
CASA / CFCRB	24	32.4%	13	17.6%	19	25.7%	12	16.2%	16	21.6%
Other	50	28.1%	35	19.7%	61	34.3%	26	14.6%	42	23.6%

Judicial workload
 Court clerk workload
 DJJ staff workload
 Distribution of written orders to parties
 Inappropriate detainment of juveniles

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? - Continued

	TREATMENT RESOURCES		JUDICIAL REVIEW		PERMANENT PLACEMENT		EFFECTIVE USE DIVERSION PROCESS		APPROPRIATE COURT DIVERSION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	491	60.0%	85	10.4%	187	22.9%	192	23.5%	204	24.9%
Judge	35	71.4%	3	6.1%	13	26.5%	7	14.3%	12	24.5%
Non-judicial court personnel	28	59.6%	4	8.5%	8	17.0%	14	29.8%	13	27.7%
Prosecuting attorney	12	42.9%	0	.0%	4	14.3%	2	7.1%	7	25.0%
Private attorney	15	42.9%	0	.0%	8	22.9%	8	22.9%	7	20.0%
CDW/DJJ	81	64.8%	21	16.8%	30	24.0%	43	34.4%	25	20.0%
CHFS	182	65.2%	27	9.7%	58	20.8%	68	24.4%	85	30.5%
CASA / CFCRB	31	41.9%	9	12.2%	21	28.4%	12	16.2%	17	23.0%
Other	105	59.0%	21	11.8%	45	25.3%	38	21.3%	38	21.3%

- Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families in our region
- Lack of judicial review of cases post-disposition
- Lack of permanent placement resources for children
- Failure to effectively use court diversion process
- Lack of appropriate court diversion programs

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? - Continued

	APPEALS PROCESS		ABSENT PARENT		RELATIVE PLACEMENT RESOURCES		PARENTS RIGHTS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	45	5.5%	159	19.4%	141	17.2%	126	15.4%
Judge	1	2.0%	10	20.4%	7	14.3%	4	8.2%
Non-judicial court personnel	3	6.4%	10	21.3%	8	17.0%	6	12.8%
Prosecuting attorney	0	.0%	2	7.1%	1	3.6%	1	3.6%
Private attorney	4	11.4%	4	11.4%	2	5.7%	6	17.1%
CDW/DJJ	9	7.2%	30	24.0%	22	17.6%	19	15.2%
CHFS	13	4.7%	51	18.3%	51	18.3%	38	13.6%
CASA / CFCRB	5	6.8%	19	25.7%	16	21.6%	10	13.5%
Other	10	5.6%	33	18.5%	34	19.1%	42	23.6%

Appeals process

Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents

Failure to identify, locate or engage relative placement resources

Failure to inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases?

Regions	MISCOMMUNICATION		AWARENESS OF ROLES		DOCKETING		SCHEDULING HEARINGS		CONTINUANCES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	75	47.5%	75	47.5%	17	10.8%	18	11.4%	33	20.9%
The Lakes	48	72.7%	37	56.1%	15	22.7%	9	13.6%	32	48.5%
Two Rivers	42	61.8%	32	47.1%	12	17.6%	12	17.6%	24	35.3%
Northern Bluegrass	61	71.8%	55	64.7%	18	21.2%	20	23.5%	30	35.3%
Salt River Trail	38	50.7%	35	46.7%	13	17.3%	13	17.3%	14	18.7%
Cumberland	63	65.6%	47	49.0%	26	27.1%	23	24.0%	37	38.5%
Eastern Mountain	62	70.5%	46	52.3%	13	14.8%	17	19.3%	37	42.0%
Jefferson	40	66.7%	37	61.7%	13	21.7%	12	20.0%	18	30.0%
Southern Bluegrass	46	63.9%	36	50.0%	13	18.1%	15	20.8%	22	30.6%
Northeastern	30	61.2%	22	44.9%	13	26.5%	11	22.4%	20	40.8%
Total	505	61.8%	422	51.7%	153	18.7%	150	18.4%	267	32.7%

- Miscommunication among agencies
- Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
- Docketing procedures
- Scheduling of hearings
- Continuances

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? – Continued

Regions	COMPETENT PROSECUTION		PARENT REPRESENTATION		CHILDREN REPRESENTATION		COMPETENT ASSESSMENT		MULTIPLE JUDGES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	19	12.0%	25	15.8%	38	24.1%	37	23.4%	18	11.4%
The Lakes	11	16.7%	15	22.7%	25	37.9%	11	16.7%	8	12.1%
Two Rivers	8	11.8%	7	10.3%	16	23.5%	9	13.2%	9	13.2%
Northern Bluegrass	20	23.5%	11	12.9%	21	24.7%	13	15.3%	11	12.9%
Salt River Trail	10	13.3%	8	10.7%	17	22.7%	12	16.0%	10	13.3%
Cumberland	20	20.8%	11	11.5%	27	28.1%	21	21.9%	12	12.5%
Eastern Mountain	18	20.5%	9	10.2%	20	22.7%	15	17.0%	14	15.9%
Jefferson	9	15.0%	8	13.3%	10	16.7%	19	31.7%	13	21.7%
Southern Bluegrass	8	11.1%	11	15.3%	21	29.2%	17	23.6%	12	16.7%
Northeastern	13	26.5%	9	18.4%	14	28.6%	11	22.4%	12	24.5%
Total	136	16.6%	114	14.0%	209	25.6%	165	20.2%	119	14.6%

Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney’s Office
 Competent legal representation for parents
 Competent legal representation for children
 Competent assessment and case planning with youth and families
 Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? - Continued

Regions	JUDICIAL WORKLOAD		COURT CLERK WORKLOAD		DJJ STAFF WORKLOAD		WRITTEN ORDERS		INAPPROPRIATE DETAINMENT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	37	23.4%	23	14.6%	48	30.4%	19	12.0%	34	21.5%
The Lakes	10	15.2%	5	7.6%	21	31.8%	7	10.6%	13	19.7%
Two Rivers	23	33.8%	13	19.1%	15	22.1%	5	7.4%	14	20.6%
Northern Bluegrass	24	28.2%	18	21.2%	41	48.2%	10	11.8%	26	30.6%
Salt River Trail	16	21.3%	12	16.0%	16	21.3%	17	22.7%	19	25.3%
Cumberland	28	29.2%	14	14.6%	22	22.9%	14	14.6%	20	20.8%
Eastern Mountain	28	31.8%	15	17.0%	25	28.4%	16	18.2%	21	23.9%
Jefferson	20	33.3%	13	21.7%	20	33.3%	11	18.3%	17	28.3%
Southern Bluegrass	13	18.1%	9	12.5%	21	29.2%	10	13.9%	18	25.0%
Northeastern	15	30.6%	10	20.4%	18	36.7%	7	14.3%	10	20.4%
Total	214	26.2%	132	16.2%	247	30.2%	116	14.2%	192	23.5%

Judicial workload
 Court clerk workload
 DJJ staff workload
 Distribution of written orders to parties
 Inappropriate detainment of juveniles

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? - Continued

Regions	TREATMENT RESOURCES		JUDICIAL REVIEW		PERMANENT PLACEMENT		EFFECTIVE USE DIVERSION PROCESS		APPROPRIATE COURT DIVERSION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	76	48.1%	8	5.1%	38	24.1%	30	19.0%	42	26.6%
The Lakes	49	74.2%	6	9.1%	17	25.8%	12	18.2%	15	22.7%
Two Rivers	33	48.5%	8	11.8%	11	16.2%	18	26.5%	12	17.6%
Northern Bluegrass	52	61.2%	11	12.9%	15	17.6%	23	27.1%	18	21.2%
Salt River Trail	44	58.7%	7	9.3%	19	25.3%	14	18.7%	17	22.7%
Cumberland	61	63.5%	14	14.6%	24	25.0%	19	19.8%	29	30.2%
Eastern Mountain	62	70.5%	12	13.6%	21	23.9%	22	25.0%	20	22.7%
Jefferson	38	63.3%	11	18.3%	16	26.7%	19	31.7%	24	40.0%
Southern Bluegrass	43	59.7%	3	4.2%	15	20.8%	20	27.8%	16	22.2%
Northeastern	32	65.3%	5	10.2%	11	22.4%	15	30.6%	11	22.4%
Total	490	60.0%	85	10.4%	187	22.9%	192	23.5%	204	25.0%

Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families in our region

Lack of judicial review of cases post-disposition

Lack of permanent placement resources for children

Failure to effectively use court diversion process

Lack of appropriate court diversion programs

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? - Continued

Regions	APPEALS PROCESS		ABSENT PARENT		RELATIVE PLACEMENT RESOURCES		PARENTS RIGHTS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	11	7.0%	25	15.8%	27	17.1%	24	15.2%
The Lakes	2	3.0%	12	18.2%	10	15.2%	10	15.2%
Two Rivers	5	7.4%	8	11.8%	7	10.3%	4	5.9%
Northern Bluegrass	4	4.7%	11	12.9%	12	14.1%	10	11.8%
Salt River Trail	1	1.3%	20	26.7%	17	22.7%	17	22.7%
Cumberland	4	4.2%	17	17.7%	14	14.6%	21	21.9%
Eastern Mountain	5	5.7%	23	26.1%	17	19.3%	10	11.4%
Jefferson	6	10.0%	13	21.7%	13	21.7%	13	21.7%
Southern Bluegrass	2	2.8%	17	23.6%	13	18.1%	9	12.5%
Northeastern	5	10.2%	13	26.5%	11	22.4%	8	16.3%
Total	45	5.5%	159	19.5%	141	17.3%	126	15.4%

Appeals process

Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents

Failure to identify, locate or engage relative placement resources

Failure to inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

Appendix B: Aspects of Process on Which to Focus Reform

11) On what ONE aspect of the overall child welfare system, and dependency, neglect and abuse court process should we most focus our reform efforts?

	CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATION		ECO/PETITION		REMOVAL HEARING		ADJUDICATION		DISPOSITION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	307	36.5%	60	7.1%	31	3.7%	96	11.4%	57	6.8%
Judge	17	35.4%	5	10.4%	1	2.1%	4	8.3%	5	10.4%
Non-judicial court personnel	18	38.3%	0	0%	0	.0%	1	2.1%	4	8.5%
Prosecuting attorney	12	38.7%	4	12.9%	4	12.9%	4	12.9%	4	12.9%
Private attorney	19	46.3%	6	14.6%	4	9.8%	2	4.9%	3	7.3%
CDW/DJJ	58	50.9%	12	10.5%	8	7.0%	9	7.9%	13	11.4%
CHFS	83	28.8%	15	5.2%	4	1.4%	56	19.4%	15	5.2%
CASA / CFCRB	26	31.7%	9	11.0%	3	3.7%	6	7.3%	3	3.7%
Other	73	39.0%	9	4.8%	7	3.7%	14	7.5%	9	4.8%

The child protection investigation and service deliver process prior to filing of an emergency custody order or petition
 Between filing the ECO/petition and the Temporary Removal Hearing
 Temporary Removal Hearing
 Adjudication
 Disposition

11) On what ONE aspect of the overall child welfare system, and dependency, neglect and abuse court process should we most focus our reform efforts? - Continued

	POST-DISPOSITION		PERMANENCY HEARINGS		TERMINATION PARENTAL RIGHTS		ADOPTION PROCESS		BROADER SYSTEMIC ISSUES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	62	7.4%	77	9.2%	129	15.3%	59	7.0%	191	22.7%
Judge	10	20.8%	4	8.3%	5	10.4%	3	6.3%	20	41.7%
Non-judicial court personnel	4	8.5%	5	10.6%	8	17.0%	3	6.4%	13	27.7%
Prosecuting attorney	5	16.1%	1	3.2%	2	6.5%	2	6.5%	9	29.0%
Private attorney	8	19.5%	1	2.4%	2	4.9%	2	4.9%	8	19.5%
CDW/DJJ	11	9.6%	8	7.0%	9	7.9%	11	9.6%	18	15.8%
CHFS	15	5.2%	29	10.1%	46	16.0%	8	2.8%	57	19.8%
CASA / CFCRB	2	2.4%	9	11.0%	23	28.0%	15	18.3%	17	20.7%
Other	7	3.7%	20	10.7%	34	18.2%	15	8.0%	48	25.7%

Post-disposition

Permanency Review/Hearings

Termination of Parental Rights Process

Adoption Process

Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process.

11) On what ONE aspect of the overall child welfare system, and dependency, neglect and abuse court process should we most focus our reform efforts?

Regions	CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATION		ECO/PETITION		REMOVAL HEARING		ADJUDICATION		DISPOSITION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	65	41.1%	17	10.8%	14	8.9%	20	12.7%	17	10.8%
The Lakes	24	35.8%	5	7.5%	2	3.0%	9	13.4%	1	1.5%
Two Rivers	29	39.7%	2	2.7%	3	4.1%	7	9.6%	2	2.7%
Northern Bluegrass	20	24.7%	6	7.4%	0	.0%	8	9.9%	7	8.6%
Salt River Trail	23	30.7%	5	6.7%	1	1.3%	7	9.3%	4	5.3%
Cumberland	47	46.1%	5	4.9%	1	1.0%	14	13.7%	3	2.9%
Eastern Mountain	31	34.4%	7	7.8%	1	1.1%	11	12.2%	4	4.4%
Jefferson	36	54.5%	3	4.5%	2	3.0%	2	3.0%	3	4.5%
Southern Bluegrass	18	22.8%	7	8.9%	4	5.1%	6	7.6%	10	12.7%
Northeastern	14	28.6%	3	6.1%	3	6.1%	12	24.5%	5	10.2%
Total	307	36.5%	60	7.1%	31	3.7%	96	11.4%	56	6.7%

The child protection investigation and service deliver process prior to filing of an emergency custody order or petition
 Between filing the ECO/petition and the Temporary Removal Hearing
 Temporary Removal Hearing
 Adjudication
 Disposition

11) On what ONE aspect of the overall child welfare system, and dependency, neglect and abuse court process should we most focus our reform efforts? - Continued

Regions	POST-DISPOSITION		PERMANENCY HEARINGS		TERMINATION PARENTAL RIGHTS		ADOPTION PROCESS		BROADER SYSTEMIC ISSUES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	23	14.6%	19	12.0%	28	17.7%	22	13.9%	68	43.0%
The Lakes	2	3.0%	3	4.5%	13	19.4%	3	4.5%	15	22.4%
Two Rivers	2	2.7%	10	13.7%	14	19.2%	2	2.7%	13	17.8%
Northern Bluegrass	8	9.9%	6	7.4%	11	13.6%	3	3.7%	21	25.9%
Salt River Trail	3	4.0%	2	2.7%	10	13.3%	2	2.7%	17	22.7%
Cumberland	4	3.9%	11	10.8%	6	5.9%	7	6.9%	15	14.7%
Eastern Mountain	7	7.8%	9	10.0%	20	22.2%	4	4.4%	9	10.0%
Jefferson	3	4.5%	4	6.1%	4	6.1%	3	4.5%	12	18.2%
Southern Bluegrass	9	11.4%	7	8.9%	12	15.2%	8	10.1%	16	20.5%
Northeastern	1	2.0%	6	12.2%	11	22.4%	5	10.2%	5	10.2%
Total	62	7.4%	77	9.2%	129	15.4%	59	7.0%	191	22.8%

Post-disposition

Permanency Review/Hearings

Termination of Parental Rights Process

Adoption Process

Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process.

12) On what ONE aspect of the overall status/delinquency process should we most focus our reform efforts?

	PRIOR TO CHARGE		DIVERSION		ARRAIGNMENT		ADJUDICATION		PRE-DISPOSITIONAL INVESTIGATION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	305	37.3%	218	26.7%	10	1.2%	34	4.2%	55	6.7%
Judge	17	34.7%	10	20.4%	0	.0%	0	.0%	3	6.1%
Non-judicial court personnel	17	37.8%	14	31.1%	0	.0%	0	.0%	1	2.2%
Prosecuting attorney	9	31.0%	3	10.3%	0	.0%	1	3.4%	4	13.8%
Private attorney	10	32.3%	4	12.9%	0	.0%	1	3.2%	0	.0%
CDW/DJJ	52	42.6%	31	25.4%	2	1.6%	9	7.4%	14	11.5%
CHFS	94	33.1%	100	35.2%	5	1.8%	14	4.9%	15	5.3%
CASA / CFCRB	23	31.1%	10	13.5%	0	.0%	1	1.4%	11	14.9%
Other	82	45.3%	44	24.3%	3	1.7%	8	4.4%	7	3.9%

Prior to youth being charged
 Diversion
 Arraignment
 Adjudication
 Pre-dispositional investigations

12) On what ONE aspect of the overall status/delinquency process should we most focus our reform efforts? - Continued

	DISPOSITION		POST- DISPOSITION – AFTERCARE		DETENTION		BROADER SYSTEMIC ISSUES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	48	5.9%	127	15.5%	71	8.7%	104	12.7%
Judge	7	14.3%	19	38.8%	4	8.2%	12	24.5%
Non- judicial court personnel	2	4.4%	8	17.8%	5	11.1%	4	8.9%
Prosecuting attorney	4	13.8%	12	41.4%	0	.0%	6	20.7%
Private attorney	0	.0%	4	12.9%	4	12.9%	2	6.5%
CDW/DJJ	13	10.7%	24	19.7%	20	16.4%	14	11.5%
CHFS	8	2.8%	30	10.6%	17	6.0%	28	9.9%
CASA / CFCRB	2	2.7%	8	10.8%	6	8.1%	7	9.5%
Other	12	6.6%	22	12.2%	15	8.3%	31	17.1%

Disposition

Post-disposition/Aftercare

Detention

Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process.

12) On what ONE aspect of the overall status/delinquency process should we most focus our reform efforts?

Regions	PRIOR TO CHARGE		DIVERSION		ARRAIGNMENT		ADJUDICATION		PRE- DISPOSITIONAL INVESTIGATION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	71	44.9%	45	28.5%	2	1.3%	6	3.8%	10	6.3%
The Lakes	28	42.4%	11	16.7%	3	4.5%	2	3.0%	7	10.6%
Two Rivers	27	38.6%	22	31.4%	0	.0%	3	4.3%	6	8.6%
Northern Bluegrass	33	40.2%	19	23.5%	0	.0%	3	3.7%	6	7.4%
Salt River Trail	21	28.0%	20	26.7%	0	.0%	4	5.3%	4	5.3%
Cumberland	42	41.6%	27	26.7%	2	2.0%	3	3.0%	6	5.9%
Eastern Mountain	32	37.6%	15	17.6%	2	2.4%	7	8.2%	5	5.9%
Jefferson	18	30.5%	22	37.3%	0	.0%	2	3.4%	2	3.4%
Southern Bluegrass	19	26.0%	21	28.8%	1	1.4%	2	2.7%	7	9.6%
Northeastern	14	28.6%	16	32.7%	0	.0%	2	4.1%	2	4.1%
Total	304	37.3%	218	26.7%	10	1.2%	34	4.2%	55	6.7%

Prior to youth being charged
 Diversion
 Arraignment
 Adjudication
 Pre-dispositional investigations

12) On what ONE aspect of the overall status/delinquency process should we most focus our reform efforts? - Continued

Regions	DISPOSITION		POST-DISPOSITION – AFTERCARE		DETENTION		BROADER SYSTEMIC ISSUES	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	16	10.1%	39	24.7%	15	9.5%	41	25.9%
The Lakes	5	7.6%	7	10.6%	2	3.0%	11	16.7%
Two Rivers	1	1.4%	7	10.0%	6	8.6%	7	10.0%
Northern Bluegrass	6	7.4%	10	12.3%	8	9.9%	6	7.4%
Salt River Trail	3	4.0%	10	13.3%	4	5.3%	4	5.3%
Cumberland	3	3.0%	12	11.9%	9	8.9%	5	5.0%
Eastern Mountain	6	7.1%	17	20.0%	5	5.9%	11	12.9%
Jefferson	2	3.4%	8	13.6%	2	3.4%	6	10.2%
Southern Bluegrass	5	6.8%	12	16.4%	14	19.4%	8	11.0%
Northeastern	1	2.0%	5	10.2%	6	12.2%	5	10.2%
Total	48	5.9%	127	15.5%	71	8.7%	104	12.7%

Disposition

Post-disposition/Aftercare

Detention

Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process.

13) In your opinion what type of general reform is most needed to improve the process and create a system of care for children and youth?

	STATUTORY CHANGE		REVISION COURT PROCEDURES		MANDATORY TRAINING		MULTIDISCIPLINARY PLANNING		ENHANCED COLLABORATION	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	293	34.1%	159	18.5%	309	36%	325	37.8%	419	48.8%
Judge	21	42.9%	6	12.2%	18	36.7%	22	44.9%	20	40.8%
Non-judicial court personnel	19	39.6%	7	14.6%	21	43.8%	17	35.4%	30	62.5%
Prosecuting attorney	16	51.6%	5	16.1%	8	25.8%	11	35.5%	16	51.6%
Private attorney	20	50.0%	5	12.5%	18	45.0%	14	35.0%	16	40.0%
CDW/DJJ	54	44.3%	25	20.5%	34	27.9%	37	30.3%	65	53.3%
CHFS	75	26.0%	52	18.0%	113	39.1%	115	39.8%	136	47.1%
CASA / CFCRB	32	37.6%	17	20.0%	29	34.1%	26	30.6%	31	36.5%
Other	56	29.2%	42	21.9%	67	34.9%	82	42.7%	105	54.7%

Statutory change

Revision of court administrative procedures

Mandatory training of professionals involved in the court process

Multidisciplinary strategic planning and implementation of local reform

Enhanced collaboration on a local level

13) In your opinion what type of general reform is most needed to improve the process and create a system of care for children and youth? - Continued

	STATEWIDE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS		INCREASED RESOURCES		EVALUATION		OTHER	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	250	29.1%	424	49.4%	380	44.2%	63	7.3%
Judge	16	32.7%	31	63.3%	17	34.7%	2	4.1%
Non-judicial court personnel	12	25.0%	25	52.1%	24	50.0%	4	8.3%
Prosecuting attorney	7	22.6%	15	48.4%	9	29.0%	2	6.5%
Private attorney	14	35.0%	26	65.0%	20	50.0%	7	17.5%
CDW/DJJ	36	29.5%	43	35.2%	56	45.9%	8	6.6%
CHFS	69	23.9%	146	50.5%	122	42.2%	18	6.2%
CASA / CFCRB	23	27.1%	38	44.7%	41	48.2%	9	10.6%
Other	73	38.0%	99	51.6%	91	47.4%	12	6.3%

Development of new statewide innovative programs

Allocation of increased resources to the system

Evaluation of child welfare and court-related programs and on-going research into the effectiveness of the court system in promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth

Other

13) In your opinion what type of general reform is most needed to improve the process and create a system of care for children and youth?

Regions	STATUTORY CHANGE		REVISION COURT PROCEDURES		MANDATORY TRAINING		MULTIDISCIPLINARY PLANNING	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	78	49.4%	39	24.7%	81	51.3%	73	46.2%
The Lakes	17	25.4%	11	16.4%	19	28.4%	28	41.8%
Two Rivers	28	37.8%	12	16.2%	22	29.7%	18	24.3%
Northern Bluegrass	31	34.8%	20	22.5%	29	32.6%	37	41.6%
Salt River Trail	22	29.3%	11	14.7%	26	34.7%	25	33.3%
Cumberland	22	20.8%	21	19.8%	40	37.7%	40	37.7%
Eastern Mountain	27	29.3%	16	17.4%	28	30.4%	31	33.7%
Jefferson	31	45.6%	11	16.2%	23	33.8%	26	38.2%
Southern Bluegrass	25	31.3%	10	12.5%	22	27.5%	31	38.8%
Northeastern	12	24.5%	8	16.3%	19	38.8%	16	32.7%
Total	293	34.1%	159	18.5%	309	36.0%	325	37.9%

Statutory change

Revision of court administrative procedures

Mandatory training of professionals involved in the court process

Multidisciplinary strategic planning and implementation of local reform

13) In your opinion what type of general reform is most needed to improve the process and create a system of care for children and youth? - Continued

	ENHANCED COLLABORATION		STATEWIDE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS		INCREASED RESOURCES		EVALUATION	
Regions	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	87	55.1%	61	38.6%	101	63.9%	67	42.4%
The Lakes	34	50.7%	17	25.4%	31	46.3%	21	31.1%
Two Rivers	31	41.9%	17	23.0%	34	45.9%	38	51.4%
Northern Bluegrass	51	57.3%	29	32.6%	38	42.7%	38	42.7%
Salt River Trail	37	49.3%	18	24.0%	34	45.3%	38	50.7%
Cumberland	55	51.9%	37	34.9%	55	51.9%	43	40.6%
Eastern Mountain	40	43.5%	20	21.7%	32	34.8%	43	46.7%
Jefferson	26	38.2%	17	25.0%	38	55.9%	29	42.6%
Southern Bluegrass	36	45.0%	22	27.5%	35	43.8%	40	50.0%
Northeastern	22	44.9%	12	24.5%	26	53.1%	23	46.9%
Total	419	48.8%	250	29.1%	424	49.4%	380	44.3%

Enhanced collaboration on a local level

Development of new statewide innovative programs

Allocation of increased resources to the system

Evaluation of child welfare and court-related programs and on-going research into the effectiveness of the court system in promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth

Appendix C: Innovative Court Practices Which Should Be Implemented

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky.

	AUTOMATED FORMS		AUTOMATIC DOCKETING		CONTINUANCES PROCEDURES		WRITTEN ORDERS		ONE JUDGE/ONE CASE	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	246	29.0%	167	19.7%	382	45.1%	324	38.3%	441	52.1%
Judge	22	44.0%	9	18.0%	11	22.0%	16	32.0%	24	48.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	18	38.3%	10	21.3%	21	44.7%	20	42.6%	25	53.2%
Prosecuting attorney	7	21.9%	3	9.4%	4	12.5%	12	37.5%	12	37.5%
Private attorney	9	22.5%	3	7.5%	10	25.0%	25	62.5%	26	65.0%
CDW/DJJ	24	19.7%	19	15.6%	55	45.1%	28	23.0%	53	43.4%
CHFS	114	40.0%	78	27.4%	155	54.4%	147	51.6%	153	53.7%
CASA / CFCRB	12	14.3%	16	19.0%	40	47.6%	21	25.0%	46	54.8%
Other	39	21.3%	29	15.8%	84	45.9%	53	29.0%	102	55.7%

Automated court forms
 Automatic docketing
 Procedures to limit continuances
 Distribution of written orders at hearings
 One judge/One case policy

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. -
Continued

	COLLABORATIVES		JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP		MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING		PERFORMANCE MEASURES		FAMILY DRUG COURT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	381	45.0%	152	17.9%	388	45.8%	138	16.3%	538	63.5%
Judge	25	50.0%	24	48.0%	22	44.0%	8	16.0%	37	74.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	24	51.1%	10	21.3%	21	44.7%	5	10.6%	29	61.7%
Prosecuting attorney	12	37.5%	2	6.3%	18	56.3%	9	28.1%	18	56.3%
Private attorney	17	42.5%	7	17.5%	19	47.5%	8	20.0%	27	67.5%
CDW/DJJ	53	43.4%	19	15.6%	56	45.9%	11	9.0%	66	54.1%
CHFS	127	44.6%	42	14.7%	128	44.9%	43	15.1%	185	64.9%
CASA / CFCRB	30	35.7%	15	17.9%	30	35.7%	12	14.3%	46	54.8%
Other	92	50.3%	33	18.0%	94	51.4%	42	23.0%	128	69.9%

Court/Agency/Community Collaborative

Judicial Leadership programs

Multidisciplinary training

Performance measurement and data-driven procedures development on a local level

Family drug court

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. -
Continued

	CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION		JUVENILE DIVERSION		TRUANCY COURT		APPEALS PROCEDURES		JUDICIAL REVIEW	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	274	32.3%	356	42.0%	371	43.8%	137	16.2%	117	13.8%
Judge	17	34.0%	30	60.0%	29	58.0%	11	22.0%	6	12.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	17	36.2%	21	44.7%	20	42.6%	7	14.9%	8	17.0%
Prosecuting attorney	11	34.4%	12	37.5%	11	34.4%	5	15.6%	1	3.1%
Private attorney	14	35.0%	15	37.5%	13	32.5%	10	25.0%	6	15.0%
CDW/DJJ	27	22.1%	61	50.0%	66	54.1%	10	8.2%	21	17.2%
CHFS	95	33.3%	99	34.7%	130	45.6%	50	17.5%	37	13.0%
CASA / CFCRB	25	29.8%	36	42.9%	31	36.9%	17	20.2%	16	19.0%
Other	66	36.1%	82	44.8%	70	38.3%	27	14.8%	22	12.0%

Child protection mediation
 Juvenile diversion programs
 Truancy court
 Expedited appeals procedures
 Increased judicial review

**15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. -
Continued**

	LEGAL COUNSEL APPOINTMENT		REASONABLE EFFORTS		COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES		ADOPTION STRATEGIES		KINSHIP CARE	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	210	24.8%	138	16.3%	185	21.9%	236	27.9%	355	41.9%
Judge	14	28.0%	8	16.0%	6	12.0%	9	18.0%	14	28.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	12	25.5%	5	10.6%	18	38.3%	13	27.7%	14	29.8%
Prosecuting attorney	12	37.5%	5	15.6%	5	15.6%	4	12.5%	9	28.1%
Private attorney	19	47.5%	16	40.0%	9	22.5%	9	22.5%	17	42.5%
CDW/DJJ	22	18.0%	13	10.7%	26	21.3%	14	11.5%	33	27.0%
CHFS	73	25.6%	51	17.9%	55	19.3%	95	33.3%	145	50.9%
CASA / CFCRB	18	21.4%	11	13.1%	17	20.2%	41	48.8%	40	47.6%
Other	39	21.3%	29	15.8%	49	26.8%	51	27.9%	82	44.8%

Legal counsel appointment reform
Detailed reasonable efforts findings
Local community strategies (e.g. brown bag lunches)
Expedited adoption strategies to alleviate backlog of cases awaiting termination of parental rights/adoption
Kinship care resource center

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. – Continued

	SYSTEM OF CARE		JUVENILE COURT CASE MANAGER		MENTAL HEALTH COURT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	93	11.0%	247	29.2%	274	32.3%
Judge	5	10.0%	20	40.0%	17	34.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	7	14.9%	22	46.8%	16	34.0%
Prosecuting attorney	3	9.4%	7	21.9%	5	15.6%
Private attorney	1	2.5%	8	20.0%	13	32.5%
CDW/DJJ	10	8.2%	53	43.4%	37	30.3%
CHFS	26	9.1%	72	25.3%	73	25.6%
CASA / CFCRB	8	9.5%	15	17.9%	29	34.5%
Other	33	18.0%	50	27.3%	82	44.8%

System of Care initiative
Establishment of juvenile court case manager positions
Mental health court

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. –
Continued

	CROSSOVER COMMITTEE		EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE		GRADUATED SANCTIONS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Combined	187	22.1%	285	33.6%	235	27.7%
Judge	11	22.0%	20	40.0%	19	38.0%
Non-judicial court personnel	11	23.4%	18	38.3%	15	31.9%
Prosecuting attorney	8	25.0%	3	9.4%	6	18.8%
Private attorney	12	30.0%	15	37.5%	9	22.5%
CDW/DJJ	26	21.3%	33	27.0%	57	46.7%
CHFS	68	23.9%	89	31.2%	61	21.4%
CASA / CFCRB	13	15.5%	41	48.8%	22	26.2%
Other	38	20.8%	66	36.1%	46	25.1%

Dependency/Delinquency Crossover Committee
 Educational surrogate for foster children
 Graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky.

Regions	AUTOMATED FORMS		AUTOMATIC DOCKETING		CONTINUANCES PROCEDURES		WRITTEN ORDERS		ONE JUDGE/ONE CASE	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	42	26.6%	35	22.2%	60	38.0%	60	38.0%	81	51.3%
The Lakes	15	22.4%	4	6.0%	41	61.2%	22	32.8%	33	49.3%
Two Rivers	12	17.1%	11	15.7%	34	48.6%	18	25.7%	31	44.3%
Northern Bluegrass	33	37.9%	22	25.3%	40	46.0%	32	36.8%	49	56.3%
Salt River Trail	19	25.3%	12	16.0%	35	46.7%	37	49.3%	48	64.0%
Cumberland	25	24.0%	20	19.2%	45	43.3%	36	34.6%	46	44.2%
Eastern Mountain	39	45.3%	27	31.4%	50	58.1%	37	43.0%	49	57.0%
Jefferson	25	35.7%	11	15.7%	26	37.1%	34	48.6%	40	57.1%
Southern Bluegrass	21	26.3%	10	12.5%	31	38.8%	28	35.0%	39	48.8%
Northeastern	14	28.6%	15	30.6%	19	38.8%	19	38.8%	25	51.0%
Total	245	29.0%	167	19.7%	381	45.0%	323	38.2%	441	52.1%

Automated court forms
Automatic docketing
Procedures to limit continuances
Distribution of written orders at hearings
One judge/One case policy

**15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. -
Continued**

Regions	COLLABORATIVES		JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP		MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING		PERFORMANCE MEASURES		FAMILY DRUG COURT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	90	57.0%	44	27.8%	80	50.6%	39	24.7%	98	62.0%
The Lakes	35	52.2%	6	9.0%	36	53.7%	10	14.9%	40	59.7%
Two Rivers	29	41.4%	16	22.9%	30	42.9%	7	10.0%	41	58.6%
Northern Bluegrass	35	40.2%	13	14.9%	34	39.1%	12	13.8%	50	57.5%
Salt River Trail	33	44.0%	14	18.7%	34	45.3%	7	9.3%	45	60.0%
Cumberland	46	44.2%	13	12.5%	49	47.1%	17	16.3%	66	63.5%
Eastern Mountain	36	41.9%	7	8.1%	37	43.0%	11	12.8%	61	70.9%
Jefferson	24	34.3%	14	20.0%	31	44.3%	16	22.9%	44	62.9%
Southern Bluegrass	36	45.0%	13	16.3%	35	43.8%	11	13.8%	61	76.3%
Northeastern	17	34.7%	12	24.5%	22	44.9%	8	16.3%	32	65.3%
Total	381	45.0%	152	18.0%	388	45.9%	138	16.3%	538	63.6%

Court/Agency/Community Collaborative

Judicial Leadership programs

Multidisciplinary training

Performance measurement and data-driven procedures development on a local level

Family drug court

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. -
Continued

Regions	CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION		JUVENILE DIVERSION		TRUANCY COURT		APPEALS PROCEDURES		JUDICIAL REVIEW	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	55	34.8%	70	44.3%	67	42.4%	37	23.4%	30	19.0%
The Lakes	19	28.4%	18	26.9%	29	43.3%	6	9.0%	6	9.0%
Two Rivers	17	24.3%	28	40.0%	21	30.0%	15	21.4%	12	17.1%
Northern Bluegrass	31	35.6%	39	44.8%	45	51.7%	14	16.1%	11	12.6%
Salt River Trail	24	32.0%	39	52.0%	33	44.0%	10	13.3%	7	9.3%
Cumberland	35	33.7%	39	37.5%	54	51.9%	11	10.6%	13	12.5%
Eastern Mountain	22	25.6%	35	40.7%	44	51.2%	11	12.8%	12	14.0%
Jefferson	28	40.0%	34	48.6%	34	48.6%	18	25.7%	11	15.7%
Southern Bluegrass	24	30.0%	40	50.0%	27	33.8%	9	11.3%	7	8.8%
Northeastern	18	36.7%	14	28.6%	17	34.7%	6	12.2%	8	16.3%
Total	273	32.3%	356	42.1%	371	43.9%	137	16.2%	117	13.8%

Child protection mediation
 Juvenile diversion programs
 Truancy court
 Expedited appeals procedures
 Increased judicial review

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. - Continued

Regions	LEGAL COUNSEL APPOINTMENT		REASONABLE EFFORTS		COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES		ADOPTION STRATEGIES		KINSHIP CARE	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	53	33.5%	37	23.4%	43	27.2%	51	32.3%	52	32.9%
The Lakes	28	41.8%	10	14.9%	19	28.4%	19	28.4%	26	38.8%
Two Rivers	14	20.0%	10	14.3%	15	21.4%	20	28.6%	23	32.9%
Northern Bluegrass	20	23.0%	16	18.4%	21	24.1%	22	25.3%	43	49.4%
Salt River Trail	21	28.0%	6	8.0%	14	18.7%	20	26.7%	35	46.7%
Cumberland	24	23.1%	14	13.5%	23	22.1%	23	22.1%	47	45.2%
Eastern Mountain	13	15.1%	11	12.8%	8	9.3%	28	32.6%	35	40.7%
Jefferson	13	18.6%	14	20.0%	15	21.7%	15	21.4%	37	52.9%
Southern Bluegrass	18	22.5%	14	17.5%	20	25.0%	21	26.3%	32	40.0%
Northeastern	6	12.2%	6	12.2%	7	14.3%	17	34.7%	24	49.0%
Total	210	24.8%	138	16.3%	185	21.9%	236	27.9%	354	41.8%

Legal counsel appointment reform
Detailed reasonable efforts findings
Local community strategies (e.g. brown bag lunches)
Expedited adoption strategies to alleviate backload of cases awaiting termination of parental rights/adoption
Kinship care resource center

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. –
Continued

Regions	SYSTEM OF CARE		JUVENILE COURT CASE MANAGER		MENTAL HEALTH COURT	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	35	22.2%	57	36.1%	65	41.1%
The Lakes	4	6.0%	21	31.3%	16	23.9%
Two Rivers	4	5.7%	22	31.4%	23	32.9%
Northern Bluegrass	13	14.9%	24	27.6%	36	41.4%
Salt River Trail	5	6.7%	19	25.3%	22	29.3%
Cumberland	8	7.7%	29	27.9%	28	26.9%
Eastern Mountain	4	4.7%	29	33.7%	18	20.9%
Jefferson	12	17.1%	23	32.9%	27	38.6%
Southern Bluegrass	5	6.3%	14	17.5%	27	33.8%
Northeastern	3	6.1%	9	18.4%	11	22.4%
Total	93	11.0%	247	29.2%	273	32.3%

System of Care initiative
Establishment of juvenile court case manager positions
Mental health court

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky. –
Continued

Regions	CROSSOVER COMMITTEE		EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE		GRADUATED SANCTIONS	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Statewide	51	32.3%	58	36.7%	46	29.1%
The Lakes	10	14.9%	29	43.3%	23	34.3%
Two Rivers	7	10.0%	22	31.4%	17	24.3%
Northern Bluegrass	21	24.1%	26	29.9%	31	35.6%
Salt River Trail	14	18.7%	29	38.7%	23	30.7%
Cumberland	14	13.5%	26	25.0%	23	22.1%
Eastern Mountain	16	18.6%	19	22.1%	19	22.1%
Jefferson	26	37.1%	27	38.6%	24	34.3%
Southern Bluegrass	19	23.8%	31	38.8%	16	20.0%
Northeastern	9	18.4%	18	36.7%	13	26.5%
Total	187	22.1%	285	33.7%	235	27.8%

Dependency/Delinquency Crossover Committee
 Educational surrogate for foster children
 Graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders

Appendix D: Additional Comments from Regional and Statewide Summit Survey

Summit suggestions and follow up (99 across all 10 sites)

Positive Comments about Summit/Process/Sessions (33)

- Great meeting, well organized, great food, speakers had important information.
- The panel of former foster children was tremendously helpful. They addressed issues that should be addressed and taken seriously.
- The panel was outstanding- should be required for every worker- annually.
- I have learned a lot today and have better knowledge and understanding of the role P&P as well as other agencies operate. Thanks for this opportunity.
- Good to meet those in other disciplines. Good to come together in goal of making things better.
- Question 5- Have done and will do: most will be useful
- Good summit- well attended
- Thank you for providing a forum for this kind of purposeful discussion! Great Statewide Regional Summit.
- The committed children panel was wonderful.
- Summit was a wonderful plan.
- Lots of interesting information, much disturbing !
- Thanks much hopefully we can all get on the same page to help kids.
- the information I gained and networking is always valuable
- I think these conferences are a step in the right direction.
- Thank you for the gift of lodging and food, but most of all I greatly appreciate the purpose and invitation to participate.
- The guest speakers were great.
- More of this kind of summit. I was skeptical and now I'm a cheerleader.
- This was an excellent program and should be an annual event.
- I was encouraged by the summit and was especially moved by the foster children who spoke as a group.
- The summit was wonderful. It was very helpful. I would love to see it every year.
- The summit has been great. I'm looking forward to the future for children in our great state. We have much to do and it can be done.
- This was a much needed summit. It provided information and training that we would have not otherwise received.
- What a great summit, this will affect more children than we will ever know.
- The summit was the bomb!
- Thank you for this summit! I believe that this is the beginning of a journey for better change for our children! The children are what it's all about!!!
- Summit was great!
- This was a wonderful conference. I'm looking forward to information on outcomes.
- I am impressed with the attendance at the summit, especially judges. We are all leaving with heads full of ideas.
- Today was very informing. Children and families should benefit from all the ideas that were discussed at the meeting.

- Summit was very helpful. New ideas gained.
- Thank you. A job well done, great progress.
- Thanks for sponsoring these forums
- Was not able to attend August meeting and I regret that

Comments about Groups Not Present at Summits (22)

- Will not have impact until more people from all agencies attend the forums and become involved.
- Judges, attorneys- only a very few attended today. We need them here.
- No judges showed up, no attorneys, no court personnel
- Only one judge attended conference. What does that say about their view on change? We can make all the changes we want but without the judges changing the way they do busy, how much change will occur?
- No judges, attorneys, and court people came today.
- The judges and attorney did not participate in the training.
- The court representatives (judges, co. attorneys, GAL) need to attend. This is the biggest part of the breakdown in safety, permanency, and well-being of our children.
- These meetings can have no impact until judges, co. atty.'s, GAL's are brought to the table with DCBS, & DJJ. They have the power to implement changes.
- Legislators need to attend summits
- I hope to see our legislature present at the regional meetings.
- How did individuals/agencies get invited to the Summit? There are several entities missing from the group including frontline DCBS workers and the community mental health service providers. Their input should be sought.
- The legislature needs to view the panel discussion of the foster kids. They also need to be more involved in meetings such as this summit. They have the power to effect change and the power of the purse.
- Bring our educators and legislators to the table at the regional summits.
- There should be front line CHFS social workers added to summit participants.
- Why are no managers, staff, and clinicians from the mental health centers here? Are they not the first line of services for our children? If we don't address this first line, how will we fix the rest?
- This is a great start – needs to be multidisciplinary. Although this is an AOC event, school personnel – who spend much time with these children – and law enforcement who frequently encounter these families and know these issues were absent from the process.
- Mandate attendance at summits of juvenile judges
- For future summits: include CHFS and DJJ social workers
- It does not appear that mental health agencies were represented and at the table!
- I am from Hardin County and found it disappointing that neither our family court judges made the time to attend this conference as it was not held on a family court day. There definitely needs to be a “mending” of relationships between the family court and the local protection and permanency office, especially with Judge Addington who openly states she does not trust the opinions of the local social workers. Also, there was no one from the Hardin County attorney's office or any of the attorneys who service the Hardin County

Family court system. We can't work on relationships when no one even bothered to show up

- Also, educators should be included in any future planning/education efforts.
- Many judges did not attend. They are essential players and this cannot work without them.

Statements Regarding Need for/Recommendations for Follow Up (20)

- Follow up with subsequent reminder meetings from AOC to encourage these changes.
- Keep attendees posted on outcomes of regional summits and where it goes from here.
- Have a summit for the people who work with the kids. Too many lawyers, judges, and court people
- Outcomes related to improving lives of children and their families; clear outcomes; next steps that are specific and outcome driven; follow-up on next steps.
- I feel more hopeful that problems will be addressed and energized to be a part of the process. Also I'm leaving with even more respect and admiration for the quality of people involved in state agencies and courts.
- "significant impact" if it is done right & both judges and other agencies are all involved.
- Could have a great impact however it will depend on where will go from here and our new governor
- If information is taken seriously and acted upon.
- I believe the idea of the summits is good if something is actually done because of them.
- It will only impact the well-being of children if suggested changes are made.
- As long as there is accurate follow through on information shared!
- Actually put into action the recommendations from this summit instead of just putting the ideas into writing.
- If following through is consistent.
- If solutions are actually able to be implemented
- Only time will tell. Potentially they could have great impact. I have heard a lot of rhetoric. If all this talk can be transferred to action improvement will happen; if not, things will remain as they are.
- Encourage follow up on today ideas- because if we don't we've only had a great time talking and rehashing what's wrong but no hope of change.
- Unless we have change, significant changes, at the legislative policy level no real changes will happen.
- Summit- Goals, legislative, court, follow up what improvements what changes get all the information out there. Next Summit?
- Don't let the ball drop! Everyone I've spoken to says that this has been needed for a long time and we can't afford to lose the momentum.
- It won't mean anything if there is no follow through at the local level.

Constructive Suggestions to Improve (18)

- CEUs for social work and other disciplines should have been offered.
- Send questions to be discussed at the summits a week or two before meeting so participants have more time to think about them.
- Moderators shouldn't offer opinions during group activities.
- More information sharing. Will we get follow up information? If so, how?

- A gung-ho motivational speaker, first off would be helpful to get juices flowing- wake folks up.
- Next summit it would be nice for the youth panel included DJJ youth and those who might not be considered the “cream of the crop” as these youth seem to be- I feel we could learn from the youth we failed in some as much as the youth who are succeeding.
- I believe a good opportunity was missed by not having some DJJ kids on the panel along with those who have been dually committed.
- Please ask all speakers to identify themselves and what they do.
- Always assume your audience knows nothing. Do not use so many acronyms.
- I needed to receive more information regarding CEUs earlier in the conference.
- There needed to be a survey for each individual workshop. Some were better than others.
- Workgroups need a true facilitator and need to be productive toward local issues; needed to come out with a plan of action.
- I would like to have had more time for the workgroups.
- It’s a shame the regionals are so far off, momentum may be lost.
- There was limited time for the regional groups. We need to assure that there is time to adequately plan for local/regional summits.
- have small group sessions involving mixed regions to share what is working in their town – followed by the regional small groups to brainstorm and plan.
- More speakers and presentations would be preferred due to wasted time within some break down groups.
- Mix disciplines at group tables instead of same groups staying together.

Statements Suggesting Unknown or Likely Minor Impact (9)

- Seeing the problems-defining a solution is not the same as implementing actions to improve the status quo.
- I’m not sure, it depends on if significant others take it seriously.
- Will know more in about a year
- Time will tell.
- The training is great, but what will come at it.
- Who knows? Only the shadows knows!
- Not sure where the information will go from here and how it can be implemented into actual practice.
- It is a start, but until the changes come I think there will be little impact.
- It will continue to be business as usual. We have been talking about the same since I started working in this field. If we continue to ignore the input of the families we work with, we will continue to miss opportunities to implement effective changes.

Negative Comments about Summit/Process/Sessions (6)

- Found this not good. Children in care of foster parents are not heard.
- Regional Summit lacked some organization
- I’m afraid my expectations of the summit were misconceived. I recognize that many people worked very hard to put the summit together. I think I expected a magic bullet to take back to my community to implement. Perhaps more of this will come from the regional summits.

The summit was motivational. It brought an awareness of the consequences of inaction. It's easy to say money would help but what we need is more bang for our buck.

- The tone of the conference did not start well by the Judge Combs suggesting that the Cabinet removes because of “dust bunnies” and having Benvenuti talk about the terribly flawed and politically motivated report which scapegoats the Cabinet. Furthermore, it was very inappropriate for him to shamelessly promote his new law firm on each screen of his power point presentation.
- The last speaker, Dave Pelzer, was an embarrassment. He seems mentally ill and to feed this frenzy publicly humiliates everyone.
- Our facilitator managed to ensure that a vigorous and helpful discussion of attendees from our circuit was not continued into the afternoon. However please be assured we followed the program in the afternoon

More community resources (58 across all 10 sites)

Substance Abuse Testing/Treatment (9)

- Increased funding for substance abuse tx so that families can recover. (3)
- Better/easier drug testing and drug treatment options
- More accessibility of drug screens, assessments and more drug treatment and support groups.
- get contract back with local health departments for drug screening.
- Treatment for drug addiction – biggest problem feeding abuse and neglect of children, advocate more money for drug treatment – residual entity.
- The region needs places where families can stay together while those members that need it can get substance abuse treatment.
- Drug testing

Preventative Services (7)

- We need more preventative services (3)
- Lack of preventative services/ in home supports for families (2)
- DJJ needs more resources to develop prevention programs.
- Resources provided to children/parents at birth if identified as high risk – screening tools at hospitals.

Mental Health Treatment (5)

- There is a great need for affordable mental health resources in Western KY
- Affordable counseling from a qualified mental health professional of choice – not just comp care/Adanta
- State mental health hospitals
- I learned a lot about what is not available in my small rural community. I would like to start with equal access to mental health and counseling resources, then I will focus on improving and reforming the system.
- Provide family counseling

Diversion Programs (5)

- Truancy Diversion Program in every county

- Truancy Court-Peer
- Truancy Court should be expanded, though handled through status court, current system (ct. every 2 weeks lacks of resources and flexible enforcement options) make for a less than effective program
- Truancy court- at schools
- “Juvenile diversion programs” – only if they are effective.

General Services (5)

- Need more \$ for better resources earlier on
- Lack of treatment resources for parents!
- The state needs to analyze how much is spent on resources for the family. Waiting lists are long and in many places there are not programs at all. That is not making reasonable efforts.
- There needs to be more resources and services closer.
- Increase funds for allocating and maintaining services (i.e. parenting programs, in home services, evaluations).

CASA (4)

- We are currently starting a CASA program in our county. I was shocked to find out that our state is one of the few states that does not fund a CASA program. A CASA volunteer can make all the difference in achieving permanency yet our state does not financially support the program. (4)
- I have always wanted CASA in my jurisdiction, but we are not large enough.

Transportation (3)

- We need a public transit system in our community. We have a large poor population without vehicles. What few resources we have, the people that need them can't get to them.
- public transportation for non Medicaid recipients
- More available transportation

Drug Court (3)

- All counties need drug courts for adults and juveniles. (3)

Placement Resources (3)

- We need to have safe houses in each county so children will have a safe place to go in acute family flare-ups. (2)
- Please if you can establish more units such as the crisis stabilization unit in bowling green.

Visitation Programs (2)

- Visitation centers for court ordered visits from P&P cases as well as DVO cases and divorce (2)

Other

- Expand the UK CATS program to more rural areas.
- Funding to support reclaiming future projects
- We need to have rehab programs in jails and prisons.
- Need affordable, accessible legal representation
- Child Protection Mediation-doesn't work
- Question 15- Dependency/Delinquency Crossover Committee-ASAP
- dual diagnosis treatment for parents drug abuse/ mental illness
- services targeted to disabled parents,
- Court with mental health focus for DNA cases
- Kinship care resource center-!!!YES
- Parent advocate for families entering the child welfare system.

Statutory/procedural changes (49 across all 10 sites)

Court Procedures (17)

- Need to limit number of continuances allowed in DNA cases. (2)
- Dockets are not “family” suitable. Waiting way too long. (2)
- Open DNA proceedings
- Close court for abuse/neglect but make public aware of findings by court
- Please don't open the courts. My 14 yr. old girl who stays home to baby-sit because mom makes her doesn't need to tell that to a room full of people. A 16 yr. old boy charged with stealing condoms doesn't want to share that with 100 new people. Shame is still ugly, but especially at that age. And what if a child was the victim? Who would want to admit what had happened to them?
- Increase judicial review
- Change statutes to make permanency hearings more frequent. Judge could see what is going on.
- Court orders for children returning to parents to prevent return
- Judges need to be encouraged to approve relative placements rather than committing children to DCBS first.
- “Distribution of written orders to parties”- Very limited to school officials
- “distribution of written orders to parties” – not translated into Spanish
- The court needs to identify that they can improve the outcome by being flexible at making changes.
- When the child goes to court have the judge ask the child questions even their GAL is there the whole truth doesn't always come out.
- judge should be allowed to order where child is placed.
- The court (local) need to have statewide access to both the AOC info as well as DCBS system the key is statewide b/c so often our clients move from place to place and we have no idea what is occurring or what things have worked and what has not.

DCBS/DJJ Procedures (16)

- no centralized intake (2)

- Once children are privately placed at recommendation of the Cabinet with a family member (without court involvement), the children should not be out of the household for more than 90 days without a petition and judicial involvement being commenced.
- Make foster parent packet more attractive to bring in more foster homes instead of cabinet being desperate for placements.
- Every social worker needs a digital camera. Too often, a child is brutalized and serious bruising occurs. Yet the cheap Polaroid camera currently used takes a poor picture making it difficult to argue the injuries were very severe. We need the proper equipment in order to document a child's injuries.
- Cabinet policy should be guided by KRS more than it is now.
- Interstate compact needs to be amended – so children picked-up in KY with no connections to KY will be transferred immediately to state the family is located.
- Interstate reporting
- ICPC needs to change to where a resident of one state is abused in another state – the residential state will assume responsibility of child. They are the only ones who can work with child's family.
- Stop putting kids in care just because a parent has a dirty drug screen.
- Kinship care needs to be re-vamped and stay in place.
- Investigative social works need stronger legislative supports to conduct thorough investigations.
- Take great interest in who you are giving temporary custody of children to. Often they are given to BF's; BF's parent (who have no connection to children) hold mothers responsible for child after child;
- Cabinet needs to serve best interest of children questioning in of child in safe environment, follow-up on referrals, confidentiality maintained, no notification of workers visits prior to home visit after referral. Adhere to established time frames, workers & GAL need to represent the child's best interest and work with foster parents. Foster parents should be allowed to present evidence if cabinet fails to do so.
- Children who are "beyond control of parent" should be dealt with by the cabinet. This should be dependency, neglect, and abuse issues. Not taken by CDW's who are limited to diversion (that does not address parents) or sending child to court.
- Establish paternity at the beginning not after child has been in care 2yrs and termination of rights is being scheduled
- I feel when children are put on conditions by the judge that there needs to be someone monitoring this child to make sure they are obeying their conditions.

Statutory Change (7)

- There are statutory problems in being able to investigate and deal with emotional abuse. Everyone knows it is occurring but guidelines prevent being able to effectively deal with it.
- create a sibling's visitation statute, make it a rebuttal presumption;

- make an exception to the hearsay rule for “continuous consistent statements” of children which would allow individuals to testify, in certain circumstances, about what a child told them about neglect/abuse.
- There need to be consistent standards, applied consistently; this will require statutory and regulatory change.
- provide for appointment of counsel for parents prior to the actual temporary removal hearings;
- Need statute re: medical decisions of children when parents are in jail accused of assaulting that child.
- Change laws to increase punishment for truancy

Other/Unspecified Agency or Branch

- Better engagement of parents and youth at all stages and levels of the process.
- Criminalizing children as out of control as an excuse by neglecting parents.
- The state needs to look at whatever there is a conflict in how service contracts are awarded. Too many providers have too close of a connection to the state. If you want diverse and independent opinions, use as many providers as possible.
- Supervise service plans
- More than one or two interviews with the child/ youth about the home environment, etc. before court proceedings, etc. take place.
- Need information from other states that family has lived previously and files not closed to hide things done out of state
- Open adoptions
- School personnel not in CPS court proceedings due to confidentiality.
- Access to AOC county wide
- There needs to be increased risk assessment services.

Increase Funding/Staffing (43 across all 10 sites)

Increase Number of Frontline Staff (21)

- The cabinet needs more front line staff to handle the job and be able to provide quality services. (14)
- Additions/ Judges to deal with high volume of family court cases. (2)
- Hire more workers, Recruit retired social workers to work with families.
- Hire more social workers so all can do a more thorough job with smaller case loads – all are overworked and underpaid!
- Increase staff so quality services can be provided.
- Establishment of juvenile court case manager positions- Why not give them to DCBS/ P&P?
- You need more SW, less paperwork

Increase Funding to System (17)

- We need more funding and without additional funding for more resources and new programs change will be slow. (8)
- Our most valuable assets in this state are our children. More money needed for KY child welfare system. (5)
- Use casino money

- I don't see much significant change until funding is made available for reform. State legislation always puts dependent children at the bottom. Invite these legislators to the court proceedings, foster care review meetings and into foster homes.
- More money needs to be spent on children. These children and their parents aren't voters but we need to get past that. We will be better off if we spent the money to make productive citizens and tax payers instead of welfare and tax users.
- Although there is a lot of lip service and dog and pony shows promoting improvements but there is a lack of funding on the local level. Money needs to be spent on the workers and programs and not administration.

Increase Pay (16)

For Cabinet/Court Workers (11)

- As said prior, front line workers are not paid what they're worth. Therefore competent and quality employees who truly care about the children they're working with leave for a higher paying job to survive in today's economy. (6)
- Hazardous duty pay for workers
- Pay workers for overtime, night visits
- The big issue is MONEY. We need to pay everyone in the system at levels which would attract the highest quality of professionalism. The social workers, the lawyers, the service providers all need to be properly compensated.
- Turnovers of social workers impedes change in child in foster care situation. pay them.
- Until we pay child/court workers more we will have too much turn over – no continuity – in services to kids who feel no one care enough about them to stay in their lives

For GALs/Attorneys (6)

- higher fees for court appointed counsel and GAL (4)
- "Legal counsel appointment reform" Insufficient remuneration. (2)

Decrease Caseload/Workload (4)

- Decrease cabinet workload so that quality is more important and quantity.(2)
- Judicial Workload (3 counties) (2)

Strategies to Retain Staff (2)

- DCBS needs to develop positive ways to staff such as pay gain, respect in community, reduce caseloads and reduce all pressure for workers
- Retention – training, collaboration, etc. – is not as valuable as improving retention of social workers, court personnel, attorneys.

Concerns Regarding Out-of-Home Care (28 across 6 regions: C, EM, J, SR, SB, SW)

Regarding Foster Care/Providers

- There needs to be more people checking on foster homes. (3)
- Look very close at these foster homes and adoption homes. Why send these children into a home to be abused and neglected more. It happens!
- Foster homes need to be trained on going intensively and home evaluation being more thorough.

- Foster parents should be required to transport.
- Additional resources for designated kinship care providers.
- I feel it is important that all out of home placements be reviewed regularly just as foster care placements are.
- More focus on improving the foster care system
- change policy of CHFS to allow workers to consider non-relatives for placement of children – this is the most inane policy in CHFS; allow for awards of kinship care funds, even in cases of dependency – currently this is not permitted;

Services Needed for Foster Children/Youth

- Educational surrogate for foster children and truants (3)
- Our children would be well served with a mentoring program, ideally for every child in care. This would give the kids a second set of watchful eyes who could give objective information to the courts about what they see in the home and in the life of the child. (2)
- Please consider hiring current or former foster children to mentor younger foster children
- make provisions that state agency kids, when moved from one school district to another, will qualify for graduation under standards of original school.
- create a statewide student records database to eliminate delays in transferring records for children in out-of-home care;
- One of the children on the panel suggested that all older children in state’s custody be required to attend independent living classes. I would add that they be required to have job counseling and counseling on extending their commitment. A position in the cabinet devoted to job counseling.
- Children need more training on life skills before age out.
- More support or teams to assist children that age out of care.
- Day care for foster care kids would be a great support group – a chance to network among the foster kids.
- Don’t forget to protect the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered kids in the child welfare system.
- Children need more financial support/ have luggage rather than garbage bags,
- Would it be feasible to offer children in independent living the state vehicles that are auctioned off when the state is finished with them?
- OMBUDSMAN available to children in foster care
- provide health insurance for all children recommitted to CHFS for the duration of their recommitment;

Interagency/Branch Collaboration/Communication (33 across all 10 sites)

Improve Interagency/Branch Communication (12)

- Improve communication across/ between agencies; (6)
- We really need to work better at correct communications- more in depth stop the turf wars – what/when/how- A complete holistic approach
- All agencies working together on the same page- wanting what is best for the child.
- There needs to be more communications between foster parent and judges.
- “miscommunication among agencies”- Schools should be included

- Continued dialogue- legislators, service providers, and clients. Honesty amongst ourselves, within our systems and with the people we provide services to. We must look each other in the eye.
- “miscommunication among agencies” – no communication with court

Interagency/Branch Collaboration (12)

- A concentrated effort by all entities that impact the life of the child to work together to do what is in the best interest of that child in an objective, realistic way. (5)
- Better collaboration between judges and P&P, community agencies, etc.
- Relationships between courts and DCBS could be improved-- we should be partners.
- Staff in all service areas need to be involved in multidisciplinary strategic planning and implementation of local reform
- Continued collaboration and enthusiasm – follow through on these great ideas.
- Everyone working together and community/city will make a difference
- Lets all work together so we do what is in the best interest of the child – including the public defender – screening of children for social, emotional, physical and learning disabilities/issues
- I believe the cabinet needs to work with the attorneys not against them. We all have the same goal but more often than not, the cabinet and the parties are at odds and case resolution is not speedy, placing more stress on the children and the parties.

Hold Regular Regional/Local Meetings (7)

- Multidisciplinary meetings monthly per communities.
- Bring each judge, social workers (for the counties served by judge) and attorneys all together quarterly to consult on cases we have in common.
- More meetings to bring together all departments and resources to discuss action to be taken working together, all agencies together.
- More regional meetings with judges and court representatives present.
- Continue to have multi-disciplinary conferences such as this in which all of us discuss common issues and seek common solutions to better serve our children and families.
- Conduct regional workshops with multidisciplinary participation at least once annually.
- We needed more time to “network” seeking resource people. I have found various agency higher ups are willing to help smaller rural communities but we do not ever get to see or meet them. Also, I would like to see more county attorneys present – to brainstorm to swap ideas on what works and what has failed.

Understanding of Each Other’s Roles (3)

- It would be helpful if all participants were educated on how each plays a part in the process. (3)

Specific Statements Criticizing System/Agencies (23 across 7 sites: C, EM, J, NB, SR, SW, TR)

- “Delay in scheduling permanent relative custody hearings” District judges will not [schedule permanent relative custody hearings] even though they can.

- Our court system in our area does not put any or small amount of importance on the CHTS assessment on children and their parents. The judges in our area seem not to look at these assessments
- Forget I owe you judicial system or status of client judicial system. No one is getting justice specially families in need.
- DCBS has a bad attitude towards drug court. They will tell us that they DO NOT like to take drug court kids because foster parents don't like transporting them. They need to look at drug court as a positive for kids and parents, instead of a negative.
- DCBS does not always keep confidentiality when school personnel make reports. It is breeched too often! This makes school personnel hesitant to report, due to the fear of parents knowing they reported. (This is what the teachers have told us).
- Court personnel will do what they want no matter what.
- [DCBS] Will not respond on call. Will not come out!
- Just need to do their job and stop misuse of foster care system (DCBS)
- DPP workers need to understand that their personal opinions should not be involved when dealing with family issues/ DNA.
- Also it seems many cases are coming up in Family Court where Permanent Custody has been given where judges are giving the children and/ or visits back to the parents. Then, reunifying results with more neglect or abuse. Permanent custody is not permanent as it should be! Relatives who have permanent custody and created stability for the children are negatively affected by parents being granted unsupervised visits after being off drugs then relapsing.
- DCBS just needs to do their job and stop misuse of foster care system
- Dysfunctional system of care that leads to many disruptions in the lives of children.
- DJJ being cops instead of advocates for treatment
- Question 10- DJJ leadership has taken the department to punishment of youth in care as opposed to providing treatment which research has established that treatment improves the lives of youth.
- The leadership of the DJJ and DCBS is weak and ineffective. Over the past ten years the loss of our experienced leaders in this field has been rapid and nothing has been done to replace those competent, experienced leaders. Assure that the leadership at the top are competent leaders, not blockheads.
- DJJ does very little to assure the success of youth who turn 18 while in their care. Quite often they are released at midnight of their 18th birthday with no place to go.
- Some judges will continue to input their feelings more than following KRS.
- Get rid of DPA – Public Defender office as they hamper the services CHFS/DJJ try to offer by continued lawsuits.
- Social workers need to have a desire to work with children and not to just get a job
- If the “old way of thinking” judges do not change, we will continue to languish in children's lives being dragged out by these judges who do not feel they have to change.
- 3 or 4 years in care is very damaging to children in Foster Care. This should never happen. The judges need to make a decision or they need to find another job.
- The fact that children have 4 or 5 workers in a year needs to be addressed. One worker never communicates to the other and this is very damaging to the child in Foster Care. Force people to do their job. The system is not broke, just enforce the rules you have.

- I think a full investigation of CFS statewide need to be done

Philosophical Approach (20 across 6 sites: C, EM, J, NB, SW and SR)

- More rights for children! Not so many for abusive/neglectful parents (4)
- Revision to cabinet policy/procedures – to better serve children not their parents
- We need to focus more on helping parent become stable, get treatment, etc. because until parents address their own problems there is very little hope they can provide a stable home life for their kids. (2)
- Change the view of returning foster children to birth parents that it is always a positive thing. They believe it is a success to reunify no matter what the circumstances. (2)
- Becoming an effective parent/caregiver is just as important as math or biology and needs to be taught to our children, if not by their parents, then as early as middle school in a mandatory class. It seems parents are not given education on how to be a good parent until they have already been caught being a bad one. Couldn't we all benefit from these classes? Why just make it available to those who have done wrong?
- Children need stable, consistent foster families and DCBS workers.
- Also, KY needs to place children's needs first and make policies, money, homes, etc. for these children and quit trying to make these changes through the cabinet for HFS only. The state has to take responsibility.
- Once a child, who is committed in the foster care system, is ready/ eligible to exit foster care we need to make sure they are financially stable before living on their own. If a child is currently in college/ post-secondary education, will the state foster care system be able to continue the financial support for their education if that child exits the foster care system at the maximum age?
- Workers need to be workers like in the early 90's. Workers of today do not know families or their needs and dynamics. Workers used to be able to explain to courts and all of family needs now they can't.
- Front line workers usually work very hard at their job, but the current evaluation system is flawed and focus is on quantity rather than quality and the workers can be punished due to their "numbers." This increases the burnout rate and quality of services.
- There is a need to better address the needs of older children. When a teenager is suffering from neglect, they are the last to get attention. It's not until he/she has committed a crime that he/she gets noticed.
- Earlier intervention – no more passing the buck.
- Please work hard to focus on the individual needs of the child first and start listening to what they have to say throughout their stay within our programs.
- Recognition that contempt of client/parent is the single largest impediment to successful reunification – but over emphasis on parental rights is the largest detriment to children's well being.
- There should be a program for parents that forces them (those in DNA cases) to listen to older children/adults who have been through foster care/abuse/dependency/neglect situations, and can help the parents understand what is happening to their kids, including impact of removal and abuse on them. Our parents just can't put themselves in the position of the kids – amazingly, even when they have been involved in the system.
- More focus on achieving permanency through adoption

Accountability (20 across all 10 sites)

Professionals (14)

- Workers should be held accountable for actually doing the work they should be doing. (2)
- More accountability for CHFS, GALS, parents' attorneys, judges. Professionalism and high work product is a must (2)
- Hold social workers more accountable. Need a hotline to report deficiencies or problems that occur at the local level. Many violate or do not follow the already SOP.
- professional standard for social workers,
- Supervisors of social workers held accountable for cases not up to date.
- GAL accountability.
- We need someone that will make the judge's do their jobs.
- empanel a board for judicial oversight (as well as attorney oversight);
- Workers, judges, etc. need to be held accountable for decisions made in the lives of children.
- Everyone legislators, judges, lawyers, DCBS, PCC, etc. need to ACT, not just TALK. I can believe what I see, not what I hear. If children are priority, then our resources need to be directed towards children. Someone (or several) from OIG should be there and be REAL.
- Accountability of all parties to timely place children/adolescents in permanent situations.
- There needs to be accountability for all disciplines including the courts, the cabinet, DJJ and the school systems, and families need to be helped with multiple issues and wrap around services not just one issue

Parents (6)

- More penalties/consequences for parents who do not make progress (3)
- Education needs to start early. Family planning needs to be offered at a moderately young age; accountability for parents not caring for their children the way they should be.
- Parent's need to be responsible for actions and actions they need to take to keep the family together. Do not hold Cabinet responsible for what parent's do and do not do.
- Parents should be punished more than they are currently, when children are removed.

Family Court Needed (9 across 5 sites: TL, C, EM, NB, SW)

- Family court in every county needed. (5)
- We need family court in Letcher County
- One judge/ one case policy- Family Court. (2)
- Court procedure: standardize family court procedures statewide;

GALs/Attorney Practice (8 across 7 sites: EM, J, TL, TR, SB, SW)

- Better trained GALs.
- Mandate GAL's have private meeting with children.
- Legal counsel appointment reform- training
- Competent legal representation for children- with the child's best interest at heart
- Guardian Ad litem needs to be overhauled
- increase competencies of GALs and parent attorneys.
- Provide legal service for parents

- Educate county attorney the need to investigate a report instead of immediately doing ECO and explore relatives/prevention services

Training (8 across 3 sites: N, EM, SW)

- There needs to be cross training between GALs, judges, and cabinet staff. (2)
- Better training of judges and Co. attorneys
- Lack of education / training for AOC, DCBS, etc.
- Increased training on domestic violence and parenting for court system.
- More combination trainings between agencies@ local and state levels
- Open summit to judicial college at AOC – local, state, need to train judges at the judicial college.
- Continuation of training that includes training outside the agency in order to bring in new ideas and initiatives.

Comments on Broader Systems Beyond CW/JJ (7 across 3 sites: EM, TR, SW)

- Do a public campaign on birth control;
- better control over Medicaid
- School System make “Life Skills” required in junior year.
- Mandatory life skills in schools, year to year beginning in kindergarten; equality of health care among all
- Smaller teacher: student ratio in schools.
- Education needs to be addressed; including vocational school for those under 16.
- Statutory change: eliminate the ability to quit school at age 16 – make only alternative a GED;

Local/Regional Considerations (6 across 5 sites: C, EM, N, NB, TR)

- Bigger is not always better- Smaller regions (3)
- Rural areas need more jobs, more resources
- Central Kentucky has a high population of Hispanics and it’d be beneficial to have not only a translator but also forms in Spanish or some other alternative.
- Provide more funding resources for areas outside of the Louisville/Lexington region.

Speed Up Time to Permanency (6 across 4 sites: C, EM, SB, TR)

- Quicker court proceedings for a permanent placement for the child.
- TPR shorter process based on prior history.
- Parents given too much time in completing requirements. TPR should be granted to 6 months of parent not progressing timely.
- We need to start the TPR process after 12 months of the child being in care. No child should be in foster care for more than 12 months without TPR being ready to file.
- Workers need to follow through on cases and not let them drag on for so long. I know a child that has been in the system 29 months and there has been no TPR.
- Make permanency and expedience top priority

Other

- I constantly hear horror stories regarding the character circumstances, and conditions of various foster homes. How can this be? It might be a) CHFS is not making proper frequency of visits or b) foster care is so scarce, CHFS literally has to take it as it finds it. Nonetheless, is the overall exception to the whole?
- Too many opinions.
- Employees working in DCBS, AOC to give 100% work efficiency no matter what they are getting paid.
- We have good laws, procedures, & protocol. We just need the staff and family to care out.
- The case which we have been involved with for the past 10 years needs to be examined because it reveals the pitfalls of the current system. Despite all of our efforts, this child is now crippled and deformed. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED!!
- Educate legislators as to needs of children and economic impact of preventive services versus costs for foster care, incarceration
- Legislators need to become more involved with the problems of KY's youth and propose legislation to correct the problems mentioned at these summits.
- Changes in state agencies happen – or don't – on the whim of the elected administration – I don't see much hope for change.
- Should be available updated local social services directory for foster parents
- Generational poverty is significant in KY. To address the child's needs, family patterns will need to be considered.
- Educate the public that children legally have fundamental rights under KRS 620.020.
- It seems the underlying theme of the summit is to get kids to permanency more quickly, but it seems a focus should be placed on reunification. However, I understand that if that's not an option for a child – then efforts certainly must be made regarding permanency but that effort is in direct opposition to my job as a parent's attorney.
- I believe that the resources offered to parents are lacking. Most parents that I represent are ordered to attend useless parenting classes that result in resentment rather than increased education. If these same parents were to be engaged by “survivors” of the foster care system, I believe the emotional impact would be greater, creating an increased desire for change from the very people who are expected to achieve it.
- I think we should stop taking so much time in dwelling on the OIG report and concentrate more on the steps in place to correct the problems. Staff is trying to move forward and use best practice under new management but the continuation of the report being brought up in several arenas for reasons other than what can we do to help needs to cease. It is not in the best interest of the children.
- Let's push the constitutional amendment for children of Kentucky as a reform goal from this summit!
- Parents need to be educated on how to appropriately “handle” their children. Parents must be consistent with discipline and teachings and demanding respect from their children. Saying no to your child is not a crime and it needs to happen more.
- More access to information for frontline staff. By the time it trickles down from Frankfort or the meetings held with management, the information is diluted or completely misinterpreted.
- Because some issues discussed have been “being discussed” for years, let's stop having meetings and take action.

- I believe there needs to be much more focus on frontline intake workers and the incredibly stressful workloads they are carrying due to staff shortage. The intake workers are the workers who initially get the children involved in the welfare system in the first place. Best practice needs to start being utilized at the beginning of a child's journey in the welfare system.
- Social worker diligence; need to hire experienced rather than "inexperienced workers"
- Case workers should be experienced employees with personal child rearing experience or equivalent.

Appendix E: Broad Systemic Issues and General Areas of Reform

Q 11 Broader systemic issues: Child Welfare

Training [28 from 9 regions]

For Workers, Topics (7)

- court procedure/testimony/expectations/mandates (4)
- procedure (2)
- clinical skills; some lack basic rapport building skills like engaging client in non-adversarial stance.
- to think outside the box and help them understand the big picture

Topics For Unspecified Professionals (8)

- Interview techniques, child development, accountability...issues tied to performance services.
- the impact of the process, not just the process.
- what diligent concurrent planning really means.
- More specific job duties training, rather than generic overall training.
- Worker reports: realistic case plans with reasonable reviews and consistency
- Broaden the criteria for meeting the requirements for investigation
- Establish a more objective and clear roles and guidelines for agency
- alternative placement options

General (7)

- Academy needs improvement

For Workers, Process (3)

- Mentoring process for new workers. (2)
- Train DCBS workers for 1 year prior to being given case loads.

Cross-Training For Multiple Professionals (5)

For Attorneys (1)

For Judges (1)

Procedural [23 individuals across 8 regions]

Cabinet Procedures (8)

- Paperwork on caseworkers- I feel workers are burdened with TOO much paperwork- They need to spend more time with child or foster family needs.(2)
- Worker has to follow through with all stages. Each stage has to equally be prepared but case may change workers that specialize in that area.
- Comprehensive family services and accountability of parents to follow through.
- Eliminate regional oversight of removal

- Disposition-One continuing problem is “hand-over” (from invest to ongoing) of case after TRH and before pre-trial; frequently weeks of supervision (monitoring) and implementation of court orders from TRH.
- Better complete intake information, better long term planning
- Competent risk assessment and case planning to address risks.
- Attorneys should have notice of five-day conference

Court Procedures (8)

- Temporary Removal Hearing-The conferencing and hearing process should be allocated more time/ greater emphasis. It’s the first court experience and may set the tone as well as goals for the rest of the parent’s legal experience with the court and ongoing workers influence.
- Docketing
- “post-disposition” – more judicial reviews.
- Attorneys should be appointed at time ECO is signed.
- “Between filing ECO/petition and the Temp. Removal Hearing” – serve both parents with process.
- DNA petitions not completed appropriately with needed information
- Stop continuance of courts, for months.
- Keep health issues in mind when child support is ordered for parents

General/Unspecified (4)

- To not place every child in OOHC
- Speed up adoptions
- Fire people when needed.
- Defining dependency by courts and DCBS – do not match.

Increase Staffing/Reduce Caseload [18 across 8 regions]

- Staff resources-vacancies & inexperience leads to barriers to achieving ideal assessments, planning, service provision. Lowering case loads & hiring more social workers. (13)
- More experienced youth care workers
- Worker recruitment, training, and retention; Increased number DPP/DJJ caseworkers
- More front line workers, attorneys, etc.

Expand Availability of Services [9 across 7 regions]

- The key is having effective resources available to assist families and children (4)
- Also, limited resources including placements for children & treatment resources results in barrier to effective planning & service provision.
- In-home services for families in the system.
- Improve independent living programs
- More services to foster care for extracurricular activities give them experiences to move on
- Parenting education

Collaboration/Communication [8 individuals across 5 regions]

- Community agencies working together to provide services to parents. (3)

- To include other systems in planning for child and families
- Collaboration of all parties, especially foster parents and birth parents.
- Work on the relationship between the county attorney's office and the local DCBS offices
- Cabinet needs to work with attorneys. There is no communication.
- Increase communication within the cabinet & other agencies

Philosophical Approach [8 individuals across 4 regions]

- Focus more on children, not money.
- Worker needs to be more involved
- Workers are playing different roles. The most important role is helping family and this is not happening.
- Develop a system and stick to it.
- Holistic approach
- Many workers follow a "formula", not look at child's needs.
- We need to take a total "holistic" look at the kid and make a better plan that will impact the child's life in our system.
- Children are not a pawn and workers should treat each case with the same level of importance.

Prevention [4 across 4 regions]

- We should focus more on prevention, providing adequate services to families in the home.
(2)
- Prevention: funding to do this
- Divert funding to preventative services that are strengths based and family directed.

Other

- Family court
- Foster parent review boards are not used effectively
- Evaluation and assessment of core PNBS
- Substance abuse issues
- Too many good parents aren't allowed to adopt.
- The definitions of abuse, neglect and dependency.
- Timeliness of TPR disposition and permanency for children
- The issues are systemic and will require a systemic response-across all agencies and points in process.
- Legislative change; change in Cabinet policies
- I would like to know what C&C actually investigates
- Sometimes I don't think it's the process or strategy that doesn't work but lack of implementation and buy in, stop dragging the process and focus on integrating those already in place. How do we know it doesn't work? We haven't really tried not enough support, accountability
- Using systems of care to engage families to reduce TPR
- It is more complex than just one aspect

Q 12 Broader Systemic Issues: Juvenile Justice

Procedural [19 individuals across all 9 regions]

General (8)

- Provide more services/Each stage is an opportunity to treat and resolve the issue (3)
- Reclaiming futures model
- Finding other solutions for children rather than placing them in foster care.
- Job opportunities – training
- Comprehensive system of care for status offenders
- Post Disposition/ Aftercare - Status cases are seldom satisfactorily resolved through disposition, frequently leaving family with unresolved issues that continue to fester throughout the minority of the child. Ongoing review, care and appropriate resources are provided at all stages of the legal process but after disposition changing needs render previous orders useless and service provision atrophies.

DJJ Practice (4)

- Offenders being placed in foster care when there are NO abuse or neglect issues. (2)
- As I see it, DJJ is too focused on the “offender” and does not engage family/community.
- DJJ should provide post-arraignment/ pre-adjudication services not just post- adjudication services- otherwise reunite with CHFS!
- Social workers should not be so eager to persuade parent to file beyond reasonable control complaints. Rather investigate problems in the home.

Court Practice (4)

- Status offenders should be committed to DJJ, not DPP. DJJ is trained for beyond control teens; DPP trained more for the family services and meeting the adults’ problematic behaviors
- Procedure for caring for children found incompetent to stand trial;
- “Adjudication”- Formal
- Adjudication: Don’t plea bargain 99% of cases when youth later deny they did anything.

CDW Practice (2)

- Require CDW to work with community partners and learn about prevention
- CDW’s need to be trained to do their job rather than refer every status offender to CHFS for placement or an open case

Philosophical Approach [7 across 5 regions]

- Services to address the underlying issues within the family that cause the status/delinquent behavior in the first place. (5)
- Most of the time status offenses stem from a much larger problem at home with the parents. Stop filing charges on children and get the family help.
- Child is not a number, but a person

Prevention [5 individuals across 3 regions]

- Prevention through mere earlier work with at risk-families to address issues before it results in status behaviors from child (victim) after. (3)
- Prevent delinquency and status offenses from occurring,
- We should use opportunities to educate our children about the court process and expectations prior to getting the individual in the system and all areas in between.

Training [4 individuals across 4 regions]

- Training needed (2)
- Workers need training in all resources available in their region/Area.
- education on issues not just laws and procedures.

Accountability [4 across 4 regions]

- Offenders should be held accountable and the system is afraid to enforce laws (2).
- Hold parents accountable
- GAL accountability.

Diversion [3 individuals across 3 regions]

- Diversion- Jefferson County Atty. does not allow cases that would be eligible for informal process according to criteria to be processed informally, therefore overloading juvenile court dockets with cases that CDW's could process.
- Services at diversion to help keep child at home and out of trouble.
- Diversion: Need more work done here that way may not lead to further incidents

Other

- In general, options.
- Societal change
- Retention plan is not working
- Cabinet needs adequate workers

Q 13 General Reform: “Other”

Services [10 across 5 regions]

Prevention/in-home (3)

Mediation (2)

Other

- Expanded independent living services for older children not going to college.
- parent mentor program (sponsor)
- Counseling services to every family.
- Services for intellectually limited parents
- Allocation of increased resources: Drug treatment resources to co-house moms & children & trauma focused treatment.

Interagency/Branch Collaboration [5 across 5 regions]

- “Enhanced collaboration on a local level” – especially school officials, they see/know children’s needs.
- DJJ needs to help DCBS more often when DCBS has exhausted all placement options
- Enhanced collaboration on a local level- Co atty & Judges
- Better working relationships between state agencies- specifically CDW, DJJ, DCBS, & Community mental health.
- Breaking down the “territorial boundaries.” Social Workers should stop treating lawyers and judges as the enemy.

Increase Salaries to Attract and Retain Highly Qualified Staff [4 across 3 regions]

Work with Clients [4 across 2 regions]

- Closer work with the families of origin
- Permanency needs to be provided for every child in timely manner. In Pike County parents are given way too many chances.
- Limit the number of chances parents get.
- More face-to-face contact with children

Increase Staffing [3 across 4 regions]

- Statutory Change [3 across 3 regions]
- Statutory change- Do away with “anonymous” referrals
- Statutory change- Transfer of status to juvenile court when pending charges
- “Statutory change” – Extend review to files on child before removal from home. Files documenting prior cabinet work.

Open Court [3 across 2 regions]

Cross-training [2 across 2 regions]

Other

- Juvenile court reform hold children responsible for actions and offer services before adjudication to defer kids from continuing into deeper life of crime.
- perhaps more importantly provide incentives/penalties for allowing children , take drugs, abuse substances, be truant, etc.
- Foster parent training
- Increase “human” aspect of interventionist
- Rework DCBS statewide.
- SOP needs to match the laws in KRS
- Law enforcement mandated to complete referrals on all child abuse/ sex abuse cases. These cases are criminal acts. No other physical criminal act is “allowed” to be investigated by a non- law enforcement agency.
- Investigations of medical neglect
- More funding!!!
- Help parents negotiate the system
- Cabinet case mandating and communication process
- Media insensitive. Sensationalizes a tragic situation involving an innocent child. They print/report in a manner to sell.
- The speed in which cases are brought before the court after petitions are filed
- lack of competent, knowledgeable public defenders.
- CFCRB review of kinship care and relative placement on all kids, not just limited to foster care placements.
- Too many restrictions on foster families
- Guardian Ad litem know their youth
- There should not be status offenses taken in the CDW office. If the problem is severe enough to meet criteria for beyond control runaway... then the cabinet should be involved with the family. If a parent cannot parent then a social worker should provide assistance or intervention not stack charge after charge onto a child. CDW’s can’t divert the parents who are usually the problem.
- Specifically recent changes in what can be taken as a referral when drugs and or domestic violence are involved should be changed

Appendix F: Specific Ideas for Reform

Community/Individual Services (102 across all 10 regions)

Substance Abuse Services (15)

- More drug/alcohol treatment facilities closer to home (5)
- SA tx for parents which includes the family being together at the center when progress is appropriate (3)
- Substance abuse treatment for adults and children is needed in the rural areas severely.
- Easier process for drug testing
- We should have effective drug rehab for people who are incarcerated.
- Need a means of paying for drug testing, the \$59.00 fee is not a way for families to pay themselves.
- Substance abuse treatment beds open immediately for courts & cabinet to make referrals.
- A family drug court would be beneficial with inclusiveness being the focus, not just for the individual who has abused drugs.
- drug court; juvenile drug court;

Diversion/Programs for Status and Public Offenders (15)

- Day treatment (locally) (2)
- something more effective and less intensive for status offenders than foster care for CHFS commitment
- Diversion programs for status offenders
- Truancy Diversion Program and drug diversion mandated across the state.
- Mentoring program
- make some status offenders (if they aren't already) eligible for medical card,
- There needs to be a day treatment program in McCracken County, similar to Calloway and Jefferson with capability of meeting the behavioral needs of youth as well as academic.
- Aftercare for juveniles after they leave detention.
- Locally develop more pro social activities to engage more kids/youth to prevent/reduce amount of repair services later on.
- I know that we are a poor state and there is only so much to go around, but we have to commit to more resources to the entire juvenile justice system. Our children are the future of our commonwealth and they deserve our support and help.
- To create more diversion programs and to stop using detention in such a large amount of juvenile cases where other, more creative options can be explored.
- More opportunities for adolescent placements outside of detention need to be created.
- One potential resource could be the Reclaiming Futures Model.
- Law passed to prohibit state offender detention for contempt
- Enhance “alternatives to detention” Find a way to get all of us to work together as a team – some parts of “system” do not see valued in the rest of us. They do not see “us” as equal partners – too much emphasis on themselves and not our children.

Prevention Services (13)

- prevention for at risk families (7)
- Prevention programs by CHFS;
- Advocacy of preventative education; increase mandated parenting education
- Money for prevention services to “at risk youth”

- More prevention services that are aimed at helping the family and keeping them out of the court system without family having a record.
- Promote/fund education/prevention – health based system proactive not reactive – focus resources on prevention.
- More local programs in the community to get parents and children involved together as a family. Neighborhood involvement.

Mental Health Services (13)

- In my region – more mental health resources & more psych/rehab resources (4)
- Eastern KY is in desperate need of an important children’s psychiatric hospital with an additional unit to deal with substance abuse. Our youth should not have to travel Lexington and /or Bowling Green to receive competent care.
- Also, an increase of specialized, free, mental health services (2).
- Juvenile mental hospitals.
- State mandated mental health services to every family in DNA court
- Need an increase in mental health resources for children
- Dismantle mental health centers!
- Mental health testing for children.
- Many children in juvenile court have mental health issues which are not addressed by status quo. Investment in mental health services for youth will save future funding necessary for dept. of corrections! Trust me! Our kids can’t be treated long enough to get accurately diagnosed and stabilized. This creates a revolving door of offense, adjudication, disposition, treatment, revocation, disposition, new treatment, new offense, revocation...HELP!

Services for Foster Youth/Independent Living (12)

- more mentoring. (2)
- According to the panel, the kids need better independent living resources and plans and people to help them. (2)
- An age-out advocacy volunteer program
- Intensive independent living program for all children before age 18 – not just classes, but “real life” assignments, tasks and goals to increase for young adults choosing to “age out” at 18.
- More resources for children in care such as those mentioned by the children on the foster care panel.
- Standard graduation requirements in every school in Kentucky.
- Better communication between state level leaders to set protocols for transition and integration of OOHC kids from LEA to LEA.
- Retaining health insurance for children who have recommitted to go to college. Age out for children in college should allow 4 yrs of college and not just kick them out at 21.

- Foster kids should not have to wait until 18 to get their drivers license
- Clothing allowance for foster children should increase

General Resources (11)

- more community services/resources for children and parents, (6)
- Families have needs that can not be met in our community of Pulaski County.
- Resources available in larger areas are need in rural settings
- More funds are needed to implement programs in Eastern Kentucky.
- More service providers

Intensive In-Home Services (8)

- More home based social services should be provided that would do away with the need to remove children. (4)
- Expand family preservation services, which works with both parents and children (2).
- More in home services especially to older youth
- Expanded services available to P & P, DJJ; services to the families that would help prevent re-occurrence or prevent out of home placement, reduce risk of abuse, neglect beyond parental control.

Placement Resources (4)

- More alternative or less restrictive and short term placements for emergency situations such as more CCSU's
- More DJJ facilities & available beds.
- Emergency shelters rather than detainment
- need rehabilitation places for children, not just foster homes.

Visitation Services/Centers (3)

Transportation (3)

System of Care (3)

- A system of care to provide wraparound services appears to be the most effective way to support youth and families for sustained positive results. (2)
- Regional planning for counties of care for children from prevention – treatment – transition to adulthood

Other

- statewide school records system
- Increase standardized assessments and treatment across all child-serving systems-using with evidence – based practices
- Conferences of care for youth (adolescents) using effective (research based) practice.
- Establish county wide grants to help parents pay for assessment and other services to ensure safety of children (parents pay co-pay, Cabinet pays flat fee).
- Strengthen post adoption services to adoptive families with special needs children.

- Because of the mobile nature of our society, parents have lost the traditional support provided by grandparents, aunts, uncles. Today's families need mentors who can come along side them to help with rearing children before kids have to be separated from their parents.
- Innovative programs based on boot camp model, but with more nurturing components.
- Mediation programs both for pre-filing and post-filing of dependency petition
- State funded CASA program
- More programs for youth offered by state and local communities.
- Law related education for all school children,
- Homeless shelters are a dire need as well.
- Specific programs (CDW, drug court) need growth in order to provide quality services to families.
- We need to address issues of poverty so that children are not removed because parents cannot pay utility bills. We should be funding support systems for support of impoverished families at least to the level we would pay to support the children in foster care.
- State funding for CASA to expand into every county
- Parent mentors to model good parenting for mothers and fathers who may have historically had no such role model.
- Increase use of statutes that allow children services as a victim of crime and increased emphasis on life skills.
- Mediation programs for all stages of DNA cases
- mechanism to provide services for parents w/o any insurance or medical card;

Changes in Court Procedures (53 across all 10 regions)

Timeliness/Increase speed to permanency (9)

- Due to the length of court process adjudication and termination of parental rights takes too long to get completed leaving the children in limbo in care far too long. (2)
- Need to enforce 45 day adjudications, timely dispositions, timely permanency hearings (2)
- Judges leave kids in temporary custody beyond time frames.
- Faster TPR process for very low IQ parents (no services can fix);
- More thorough judicial system and speedy court actions.
- Require Judges to make a decision on permanency whether adoption or return home. Force them to follow and learn the laws they are sworn to uphold (ASFAs) Remove them if they do not find permanency for the children.
- quicker access to courts and more support from courts

Increased Consistency (4)

- Each court operates the same
- Laws need to be enforced for all in courts.
- Judges (usually district) typically fail to follow the law in juvenile cases. Those cases also linger for excessive periods of time. There is no evaluation/tracking of such poor judges, save for the filing of judicial complaints, which most litigants and social workers are afraid to do.
- There should be more consistency in times frames for permanency in all cases.

Accountability for Parents/Juveniles (4)

- There is a lack of holding youth who commit multiple public offenses accountable
- Something like three strikes policy.
- Parents being held more accountable for truancy
- Enforce sanctions/ orders placed upon a juvenile in district court

Appoint Attorneys Prior to Temporary Removal Hearing (4)

- Appoint attorneys before temporary removal hearings. (2)
- Statute changes: appointment of attorneys and GALs at TPR hearings, or prior to;
- Parents need to have counsel appointment prior to TR hearing. Each case should have counsel appointed for parties and children.

Hear Status Cases in Family Court (3)

Docketing (2)

- Court dockets should be specific – not 9 am and waitTrain investigators more thoroughly
- Smaller dockets to allow for meaningful review and system accountability (Including CPS).

Improve Treatment of Workers (2)

- Actually get our local judges & County Attys. to talk to DCBS workers instead of demeaning us publicly in court.
- judges to treat SW and people with respect

Establish Procedure for children found incompetent to stand trial. (2)

Other

- Ensure that the county statute and jurisdiction statute coincide (i.e. 610 & 620)
- Encourage foster parent involvement in each step of the court journey of a child.
- Include kids more in court.
- Judges say one thing in court but write something different on orders.
- Could use forms to assist the court with referral process
- Judge should listen to children and not place status offenders in care when they are not appropriate for foster care.
- Committing truancy and status offenders to the cabinet less. They should be diverted and receive services.
- In addition to care plan all court orders should be provided parents who acknowledge receipt in writing.
- Closing loophole offenders just prior to turning 18 yoa.
- Input to juvenile's atty. and prosecutor prior to court by involved parties, i.e. teachers, cabinet workers, CDWs, etc.
- Have public defender work for what is in the best interest of the child not to work to have child avoid natural consequences –
- Liaison between court and social services to assist and communication of court dates, orders, paperwork, etc.

- Require service of process for both parents, if known.
- Lower financial standards for DPA. If people are not actually poor, make them hire their own attorney. DPA services are diluted by making the DPA take every case.
- Mental health court and domestic violence court along drug court model and standardized assessments.
- Make the process, the regulations, and the language easy to understand – not “lawyer language”
- stop agreed findings of dependency in abuse/ neglect cases
- Judges need to not bring personal opinion into cases
- One judge-one child- one family.
- Mandatory 6 month judicial review in DNA cases
- Allow a child victim to testify through a court employee or CASA volunteer – would require change in hearsay rules; better definitions of abuse/neglect.
- The consistency of allegation exception that Judge Gill mentioned would be a very helpful change to Kentucky’s hearsay rule.
- The consistency of allegation exception that Judge Gill mentioned there connection his would be a very helpful change to Kentucky’s hearsay rule.
- Parent Advocacy / legal representation to inform parents of the process.
- Once we have family court statewide, there should be a CHFS attorney for every family court – one per judge. These attorneys should replace the county attorney for juvenile court proceedings and represent CHFS in all matters before the family court. This would include: DNA cases; status cases; paternity; child support; TPR; adoption. This would be costly, but the state would save money from not having to contract with county attorneys to collect child support.

Training (35 across 9 regions)

Training for Judges/Courts (10)

- Courts or court officials should be aware of specific roles and responsibilities of DCBS, DJJ, and CDW. (3)
- Requirement of Judges to have a minimum of 50 hours of training annually on cycle of DV, triggers, indicators, risks, effects of substance abuse, effects on adult, child;
- Intense training of new family ct. judges;
- Court needs to be more aware of statutory obligations.
- More training involving court personnel and consistent workers in a case
- Mandatory statewide training for Judges.
- better trainings for judges
- Courts should be better informed regarding the impact of foster care and not be so quick to place children in care due to a dirty drug screen.

Cross-Training (9)

- It would be beneficial to the effectiveness of court proceedings to form essential and informative collaborative training for DCBS, judges, and AOC. (6)
- All agencies should be required to learn what the other agency does. (2)
- Better training of knowledge of what other agencies can and cannot do. It would cut down on “bad mouthing” each other when we are supposed to be concentrating on the child

Training for Cabinet (5)

- Particular training skills for intake worker to be more therapeutic than confrontational style.
- Guidelines for social workers on how to investigate and standards to apply before and during the court process
- Better training; more experienced social workers in the field making determinations,
- DCBS more educated on front line and become more independent
- better training/experience for investigative workers of DCBS – dependency qualify for funds
- Most importantly, require social service workers to be licensed.

Training for Other/Mixed Groups (2)

- Judges and Attorneys need to know outside court room – understand clients level of needs what, placements all like – what data tells us about abused and neglected children and their families talk to people involved if kids and families
- I believe that the various players involved in this process should be educated as to what each player is responsible for to aid in appropriate communication and implementation of programs. Don't assume that we know the details of each others' job descriptions!
- Training for GALs and parent attorneys on accountability to not only clients but to the community that is writing their checks. County attorneys – what exactly is their job?
- Mandatory training for GALs
- Require prosecution to be certified following appropriate training so they accurately prepare cases for adjudication and disposition.
- training for attorneys.
- Mandatory training for attorneys who practice juvenile cases to allow for competent representation.

Other

- Better knowledge of services available
- Statutory changes will require judges, prosecuting attorneys, GAL's and parents' attorneys to attend training regarding the process at removal to adoption or reunification or some other permanency goal (i.e. PPLA- emancipation).
- Training / buy in on wrap around/ system of care philosophy
- Mandatory legal training.

DCBS/DJJ policies and procedures (34 across all 10 regions)

Intake and Investigation of Reports (4)

- Reviewing and narrowing what is accepted as referrals,
- DCBS should respond to all cases reported and keep all information confidential!
- Do away with accepting “anonymous” referrals- these are being used for retaliatory methods- both client and worker.
- When an investigation is reopened, the same office which initially handled it should not be the one to re-examine their previous handling of it! There needs to be a special taskforce which investigates medical neglect cases compromised of experts in that field of medical care.

Oversight/Accountability (4)

- There should be more oversight of workers and supervisors. This is where the ball is dropped.
- Review/evaluate local investigations done by social workers.
- DCBS needs to be revised statewide. As far as investigation and who is working the cases. DCBS doesn't like drug court due to foster parents having to take them to drug court.
- Greater consistency of application of policies as it relates to neglect and removal of children. Are frontline staff represented equally for ALL areas when policies are implemented or just those in administration? It seems that the variations in areas/cultural mores are not taken into account regarding removal, placement, adoption, resources developed and supported, etc.

Case Planning (3)

- The Cabinet, Court, and DJJ should be implementing case plans that will mitigate the risk factors.
- Better definition of concurrent planning.
- More individual case planning be using case plans clients CAN understand

Non-relative Placement of Children (3)

Transfer of Cases/Clarification of Roles Between DCBS and DJJ (2)

- I think there needs to be more distinction between what needs to be DCBS and what needs to be DJJ. DCBS is being used as a catch all.
- Changes in transferring child from CHFS commitment to DJJ commitment.

Other

- Identify children at risk earlier ferret out learning impairments/disabilities and focus on intensive remediation.
- Even when a child/adolescent cannot return home – I think there should be more effort put into ensuring the kids see their families, when it's safe and not harmful to the kids. Also, the kids (who are mature enough) should be informed of case status.
- more stringent recruitment of foster care parents.
- More restrictions on foster home approval
- The most important change that drastically needs to take effect is: The social worker that investigates a DNA case needs to follow thru with the case all the way thru the disposition. I really don't like the fact that they pass the cases around to others in the office.
- Workers, (case managers) work directly with child and foster family (not courtesy).
- There needs to be a change in DCBS policy that once a child is out of the home on a voluntary relative placement more than 90 days, that a petition is filed so court can work towards permanency with child.
- DV in the home where children are exposed to it should not be entered as neglect, but as abuse. These children may not have physical injuries but the psychological damage is tremendous and affects them for a lifetime.

- Both systems need to be reviewed and revised- placements for children need to be based on assessment (face-to-face) which leads to what is the best placement for that child at the time- DCBS put everyone into foster care and DJJ uses most restrictive youth authority centers
- DJJ needs to offer services for juveniles before adjudications to defer kids from crime (diversion). Let worker be worker instead of pencil pusher and computer experts.
- Work to make changes to status to monitor home, school and enforce truancy laws. Fire and order parents to attend school with children.
- They should be contracting with agencies that use evidence-based practices and empirically sound interventions.
- implement support services aides,
- Each Foster child should be provided on exit interview form – upon the expiration of their commitment – that should be mailed (postage card) directly to central office or an outside, entity (foster care rev. board) of CHFS permanency
- Kids in foster care should be covered by the state until they graduate from college
- If foster parents want to assume responsibility for driving, additional allowance, etc., they should be allowed to
- Social workers to notify CASA of changes to case
- Kinship care offered to status children’s relatives

Communication/Collaboration (30 across all 10 regions)

Interagency/branch Collaboration (14)

- Ensure implementation of policies that encourage collaboration for the best interest of the children/families. (6)
- Collaboration between court personnel and CHFS staff (2)
- Collaboration between CASA and CFC
- More collaboration between DCBS, DJJ, CDW
- All agencies working closely together to get cases processed quickly and efficiently.
- Better collaboration between regional managers and courts.
- Really need to get everyone on the same page. Be more concerned about the child and family and not just sending them away saying it is another agency problem
- Change occurs when you build relationship. Build relationship with court and agencies as any staff

Improve Interagency/branch Communication (12)

- I would like free collaboration of pertinent information w/professionals w/o being hindered by confidentiality/HIPPA laws. (5)
- More communication between agencies (2)
- more information sharing between DJJ, CHFS, JCPS. (2)
- There needs to be more communication between all included parties – The school system definitely needs to be included.
- open communication between Judges and social workers
- Consistency throughout the state both in courts with an open line of communication between all parties very often the right hand doesn’t know what the left hand is doing

Hold Interagency/branch Meetings (3)

- Interagency meetings
- In my jurisdiction, local meetings with professionals who work with children have been the most helpful to improve the process locally and create a better system.
- More collaborative meetings to educate community partners on the family to family paradigm of services specifically in areas of support services and interventions before child enters care of CHFS/DJJ.

Other

- Go back to use of old “Interagency Linkage” agreement between DCBS and Mental Health
- In regards to enhance collaboration at the local level, I believe we are doing that right now with the Regional Summits. However, this is something that I hope will continue among local agencies in the future.

Statutory Change (26 across 7 regions)

Regulation of Home Schooling (5)

- Strict guidelines on home schooling (3)
- I believe the legislature must establish minimal requirements for home schooling and impose duties to enforcement otherwise, truancy enforcement is futile. For example, a mother who cannot read or write withdrew her 14 yr. old son. Her 16 yr. old dropped out in spring to help his 14 yr. old brother.
- To me truancy is the root of all evil, yet when we enforce attendance laws, parents withdraw the child to home school. There are no minimum requirements to home school and no monitoring to see if what is supposed to be done is being done. I now have a mentally retarded mother withdrawing her 14 year old to home school. She can’t read or write.
- abolish home – schooling
- More accountability for “home schooling”

Change/Eliminate Status Offenses (6)

- Do away with status offenses; many times status offenses are a parenting problem that requires intervention by social services rather than charges against a child. (2)
- Children should not bounce back and forth between status and juvenile docket,
- No definition for status offenders.
- Move Status to DNA or eliminate status
- There should not be beyond control of parent offenses. It makes it too easy for a parent to give up.

Other

- eliminate ability to drop out of school @ 16 ;
- Laws regarding equal coverage provided by insurance companies vs. Medicaid.
- Change the way “dependency” is used. I have seen too many neglect charges amended to dependency that should not be.
- Legislative: add medical dependency to DNA statute.
- Involve legislative leadership in the future summits with judges, attorneys and CHFS so that statutory amendments can be discussed with broadest perspective.

- Have “best interest” standard rather than “serious risk of harm” after disposition stage of DNA proceedings.
- A statutory change to create a juvenile competency statute similar to that in the adult system to allow the court to make sure the child is getting the help he/she deserves.
- A statutory change to create a juvenile competency statute similar to that in the adult system to allow the court to make sure the child is getting the help he/she deserves.
- Change statute so permanency hearing is held at 6 not 12 months.
- Sibling visitation statute ;
- Criminalize drug use in front of children
- Clarification on statutes regarding initiation timelines, definitions of CA/N for funding.
- Beyond control classes- law is vague as to reasonable control too many juvenile with actual medical conditions not being treated versus having a beyond control charge. Same with abuse of a teacher prohibited- law is far too vague and juveniles with mental problems are being charged with criminal offenses.
- Redefine “Dependency” –especially hindering the amending of neglect/abuse charges down to dependency.
- Domestic violence not to be lumped into neglect category

Attorney Practice (20 across 7 regions)

- GALs need to see and talk to child.(3)
- Increase fees for GALs (4)
- Increased training and expectations for GALs. (4)
- additional funding for GALs and parent’s attorneys to ensure competent legal representation. (2)
- GAL’s in district court should also be paid what they are paid in circuit court for the same work.
- Increased fees for court appt. attorneys, including post disposition.
- Appointment of the most competent counsel for all parties, rather than a list based system.
- GAL or attorney appointments for parents and children throughout the process and through appeal.
- create a right to an attorney on appeal for parents.
- Mandatory meeting of children and foster parents with GAL in home.
- Social workers are in court on time and prepared – make attorneys do the same.
- clarified / enforced expectations for county attorneys.
- Advocates for juvenile status offenders – not just public defenders.
- Representatives should be aware of the person they are assigned to by the court

Increase Staffing/Reduce Caseloads (15 across 8 regions)

- Need additional social workers (5)
- Caseloads need to be lowered. Need more case managers to handle the responsibility of a holistic case effectively – creating more work for the worker is not helpful. (5)
- Please, please find more funds for attorneys, social workers and courts designated workers so that they can afford to put in the extra time it takes to promote change and adequately represent and focus on implementing change.
- more judges!;

- Need to be fully staffed and when budget shortfall occurs do not balance the budget on the backs of family and children.
- Smaller regions, lower caseloads, better retention incentives
- Redistribute money to increase workers (reduce caseloads) i.e. stop wasting money on ineffective trainings/benefits that are unnecessary

Funding (14 across 8 regions)

- State needs to put money where its mouth is regarding children, our most precious resources. (9)
- Increase funding to address issues prior to youth being charged.
- use funds more productively (less waste)
- General Assembly (especially leadership) must be convinced that state has a cost control ___ to appropriate funds now sufficient to prevent and correct DNA so as it saves future societal costs. Fund the program.
- We need more funding for reunification of families.
- Better salaries for individuals who work with children.

Professional accountability (14 across 6 regions)

- all courts should have a neutral party monitor- they should be whistle blowers re: SW, judges, proceedings, etc. (2)
- Accountability is a major factor in the various agencies. Referral sources don't communicate with service providers. GAL not effective or held accountable. Assessment recommendations not followed, consequences not imposed...
- More outside agencies reviewing state agencies such as DJJ and DCBS.
- Hold CDWs accountable.
- All juvenile court clerks to "re-read" their job duties and do them. If they don't do them they should be given a written warning. I am to receive court dockets in my mailbox but have "never" received any. I informed the clerk but they have not co-operated.
- Accountability of GAL's.
- HOLD judges ACCOUNTABLE!
- CFCRB should review ALL out of home placements, including kinship care and relative placement.
- mechanism to hold SRA and judges accountable;
- In 17 years of juvenile court I am blessed to work with a wonderful team of social workers. The group we have is the best in the state and the best in my career. London regional office has to monitor their every move. Let them (social workers) do their jobs! Regional office is not a team player, we need to work together.
- Independent office of child advocacy – case reviews, ombudsman;
- The cabinet should be consistent in procedures. From my GAL work in other counties, these procedures are inconsistently applied.
- Family Drug Court should be closely monitored

Statewide Family Court (11 across 6 regions)

- Family court in all counties (10)
- Hear all juvenile cases (delinquency) in family court

Open Court (6 across 4 regions)

- Opening family and juvenile courts to public, with conditions of judicial discretion to close and protection of identity of victims in family court actions. (3)
- Open Court and sharing information that better inform work on placement
- Open Juvenile court to the public, but not DNA.
- Open hearings, open records

Other

- Annual reviews for foster parents
- Consistency across the state
- Lobby the legislature
- Open court for juvenile cases
- Foster parent package to be attracting to parents in lieu of responsibilities.
- Child abuse/ sexual abuse referred to an investigated by law enforcement.
- I think field workers need more input and see the changes. The local offices have the experiences with the families/ children/ community
- Focus on best interest of children
- The KY Summit Regional Meeting very helpful
- public education on court/ foster care, etc.
- Too many parents are incarcerated and therefore are unable to parent.
- Open adoptions!
- Increasing parent involvement in systemic changes as well as increasing child involvement within systemic changes.
- Daytime curfew
- We have many kids that turn and are not appropriate to be released to communities (IQ, behaviors) the system currently in place is poor. Many “children” are expected to go to school’s and due to aggressive behaviors are not appropriate
- Articles in the Herald Leader notwithstanding, my understanding is that the average time for achieving permanency for a child in foster care is three years; that seems a long time.
- In order to change the system, you have to engage the families we serve in the discussion. Without hearing from them, we will continue to see the same issues we have seen for years.
- Make children a legislative priority
- higher salaries
- Get workers hired within 1 month of the last workers leaving to decrease turnovers.
- Advocacy for youth and those who work on their behalf.
- No home schooling for children who have truancy or beyond control of school.
- Treat the cause of the problem not the outcome. (Parenting classes, prior to problems, etc.)
- Need to focus on resolving conflicts between children’s rights and family rights. This has become very polarized.
- Child Right laws, child protection rights
- Statewide computer access to school records (for school administrators).
- Reduction of poverty decreasing the use of the criminal justice system to incarcerate and the war on drugs to free resources for education and ending poverty and to stop incarcerating so many parents/caregivers.

- Enable schools to be more engaged with children; school personnel are the front line and they know more about kids than anyone.
- Schools identifying students with learning disabilities or other challenges, earlier than later.
- School mediators.

Appendix G: Opening Public Access to Court Proceedings

16a. Should Kentucky allow public access to court proceedings related to child abuse, neglect, and dependency? If yes, under what conditions?

At judge's/court's discretion (55)

Jefferson (22)

- With discretion at the hands of the judge
- Allowed but judges have discretion to close court
- Open, but have process in which court can seal/close proceedings if special circumstances
- Judge would have the authority to keep a specific case closed
- The judge can close it for any reason
- If judge agrees
- Under judicial discretion
- Judicial discretion to close case to public based on finding of likely harm to child.
- With the option of closing the session if there is a danger to anyone.
- Judges have right to close when necessary
- With discretion to close- closed records with discretion to open-
- Individual case concerns can close proceedings
- Judges discretion to close proceedings
- At judge's discretion
- With judge's discretion to close
- Judge should have prerogative to close proceedings for good cause shown.
- At discretion of judge
- Court's discretion to close certain proceedings with written findings
- With some court discretion to close court
- Subject to court closure at discretion of judge-
- Option to close
- Judicial discretion to close

Southern Bluegrass (7)

- with judicial discretion to close or open proceeding as required for each case
- judicial exemption
- With judge's discretion! There are enough checks/balances if any attorney's involved, DCBS, GAL, County attorney. Seek closure for good reason, then close.
- Judge's discretion to close
- Judge's discretion
- Judge can close
- All cases should be open. Judge should be able to close case if specific concern (i.e. fatalities, sexual abuse)

The Lakes(7)

- With the court's option to close
- Only at judge's discretion (N*)
- Court should be closed, or open only at judge's discretion.

- Under certain conditions and judge's discretion.
- For administrative oversight or at judge's discretion
- On a case-by-case basis, decided by the judge. (N)
- Should be closed but if not closed it should be closed unless judge opens particular case for cause (N)

Two Rivers (4)

- Individual cases evaluations
- Judge's discretion.
- Discretionary with the Court
- Depends on circumstance of case

Salt River Trail (4)

- Judge's discretion
- With judges decision
- At discretion of the court and deferral if it is not with the best interest of the child
- High profile case – at judges discretion

Northeastern (4)

- Discretion of the judge
- Subject to the discretion of the judge
- Discretion of the judge
- Left to judge's discretion

Northern Bluegrass (2)

- Only with judge's discretion
- The case should be confidential, but the judge has the ability to open.

Eastern Mountain (2)

- Approval of judge
- This should be judicial discretion.

Cumberland (4)

- Case by case
- Restricted – Judge decides which are open.
- At judges discretion
- At the discretion of the judge

Only certain parties involved with family (26)

Two Rivers (5)

- Limited to trained child advocates, parent monitoring groups, family members-grandparents, aunts, uncles and potential custodians.
- If any service agencies are involved in the case.
- Only to professionals who are working in the case.
- Only to extended family
- Only people related to the case DSS school DJJ CDW etc. should be allowed

The Lakes (4)

- Only those directly involved with family or those affected by decision.
- Specific official of school, collaborative partners to increase service to family.
- Only for persons directly involved with child sworn to confidentiality and approved by judge with detailed criteria.

- If it passes limit access

Northern Bluegrass (4)

- Showing proof of identity & how you're related to the case.
- When a person is involved in a case in anyway.
- Only professionals/relatives directly involved in case planning with family (someone with a vested interest).
- For CFCRB members

Cumberland (4)

- Only persons/agencies who have an interest in the child's welfare.
- If related to the case
- Only allow on a "need to know" basis.
- Certainly members of the CFCRB should be allowed in without restrictions

Northeastern (3)

- Foster parents should be allowed to have more information but not completely open
- It should be open only to those who have a vested interest in the case and this includes caregivers
- Yes to all parties concerned with the child including foster parents

Salt River Trail (2)

- I believe that the court proceedings should be closed but people like family preservation or therapists and who work with the families should be allowed to be in the courtroom
- Any individuals of a professional interest in case (i.e. – school personnel, comp care, etc)

Eastern Mountain (2)

- Family members involved in case with interest in the child.
- "Need to know"

Southern Bluegrass (1)

- Attorneys, counselors, etc. not the media.

Jefferson (1)

- They are related or have some relation to child

Under no conditions (23)

Eastern Mountain (7)

- Absolutely Not
- Under no circumstances
- No, children will be further traumatized and families may be less likely to work with the cabinet
- Public access should never be allowed of any child abuse, neglect, or dependency cases.
- Under no condition
- Would not allow BUT would have a central registry for juveniles—sexual abuse/ violent crimes
- None- Children's lives and problems should be private. The public stereotype as well, and communities are small.

Cumberland (6)

- Reserve child's dignity (not a public display to be labeled).
- None
- No, deal with parents directly for accountability

- No conditions
- No, No, No
- This would set youth up for more emotional abuse by the community.

Northern Bluegrass (3)

- No – x's 1000
- NO !!
- Too many risks in exposing information about vulnerable children, confidentiality

Two Rivers (2)

- What possible good can come from further humiliating abused children
- This is not in the best interest of the child involved.

Southern Bluegrass (2)

- A child's life is much more complicated. I don't think it would be fair for a child's life, especially an abuse, sexual, to be made public. This could be defeating the purpose of giving assistance.
- Media insensitive. Sensationalizes a tragic situation involving an innocent child! They print/report in a manner to sell!

Northeastern (1)

- Adults can be cruel; children can be even more cruel. Knowing the trauma of other children would open them up to being cruel to them

The Lakes (1)

- Protecting the child is paramount. This child will have to live in the community with everyone knowing everything. In a small town, this could be traumatic.

Jefferson (1)

- Absolutely not! Protect the child at all costs!

Only non-identifying information/no names used (21)

Jefferson (9)

- Keep child's name private
- press not to mention child's name
- Under conditions protect child's identity
- Never give the name of a child or information that could lead to child's name.
- Child's names not released
- The enforcement of confidentiality in regards to the media
- Use initials in court records (with an index that names all parties but which remains confidential); court proceedings open, subject to a motion to close
- protect anonymity of minor victims.
- In abuse/ neglect cases the child's identity is protected

Northern Bluegrass (3)

- Circumstances should be public
- Only parents info should be disclosed
- Preserve the integrity of the child.

Salt River Trail (2)

- The child's abuse should be kept private mainly the rulings and why
- Keep child's issues of abuse private

Northeastern (2)

- No names given/just information except to those with legitimate interest
- Protect children's identity

Southern Bluegrass (2)

- Privacy—talk behind screen with distortion of voice
- No names

Cumberland (2)

- Not [juvenile/youth] information, just adult and situation information
- Victim's name to be protected/confidential.

Two Rivers (1)

- Privacy

Under all conditions (12—4 unless unsafe)

Salt River Trail (4)

- All DNA hearings should be open to the public, this holds all parties accountable (social workers, judges, attorneys)
- All
- All times unless there is a compelling reason not to
- All conditions. This would alleviate the negative publicity often surrounding these cases as silly one side of story is told

Cumberland (3)

- Always!
- Any
- All aspects of juvenile cases from initial hearing to TPR

Jefferson (2)

- All conditions, except when it would be harmful to child.
- All- unless risk for child

Two Rivers (2)

- Records should be open, court proceedings open unless unsafe.
- Those persons should be held accountable to the public for their actions and not protected by the secrecy of those hearings.

Northern Bluegrass (1)

- all

With approval of parties (11)

Southern Bluegrass (4)

- Anyone should be able to ask for it to be closed
- Motion is made by any party or court to seal
- Families with existing parental rights should be given the option of having a public proceeding
- Only with permission of family

The Lakes (2)

- Judge and all parties agree to open or close
- Judge and attorneys agree to open or close.

Northern Bluegrass (1)

- Judge has discretion to open if all people agree or to child's benefit.

Jefferson (1)

- Only with the agreement of the child's guardian Ad Litem

Two Rivers (1)

- By agreement of all parties

Salt River Trail (1)

- Only if can be repealed at request of any party

Eastern Mountain (1)

- If all parties agree

Not certain types of cases (10)

Northern Bluegrass (4)

- No sexual abuse
- Non sexual abuse cases
- Limited to criminal acts
- Neglect & abuse closed – Dependency open. N

Jefferson (2)

- All except sex abuse cases
- Sex abuse cases

Eastern Mountain (2)

- I have reservations regarding open cases related to child sexual abuse.
- Children who are sexually abused should not have public hearings.

Salt River Trail (1)

- no sexual offenses open N

Cumberland (1)

- Except abuse cases

Only certain types of cases (9)

Jefferson (4)

- Status and public offenses
- I believe juvenile court should be open so all are aware of the problems.
- Injury to the child
- Juvenile court because a crime is a crime and the public should be aware.

Eastern Mountain (2)

- Only juveniles with public charges
- Only for public crime indictments.

Salt River Trail (2)

- Age limits; N
- Open for kids over 10

Southern Bluegrass (1)

- Except in cases of child fatalities due to abuse/neglect N

Two Rivers (1)

- Second or more offense.

Close Court Files (7)

Jefferson

- Open courts with discretion to close files
- However records should be sealed
- Close files
- files should not be open to public
- Files not being open for review
- records are closed
- Close records with discretion to open upon certain conditions

Other (15)

Eastern Mountain (6)

- To a neutral watchdog/ whistle blower to bring light to inconsistencies, unfairness of judges, SW, and attorneys.
- That adults be able to be recognized as abusers
- I feel that anyone that would abuse their child, it needs to be known to the public
- So the public can see how the judges handle the case, “Limit to people of entrust”
- One way, but then I have concerns but get angry when DPP gets blame for the families situation. Let the community aware of the courts part in cases and let them know what DPP services have been provided.
- In Pike all cases excluding adoptions are heard in open court now. In other counties hearing are held in closed chambers.

Northern Bluegrass (3)

- For protection of families – during the process- not if it will hurt the child.
- There may be people outside the family that can testify to abuse.
- I feel it would allow the public to be more aware of abuse & neglect & possibly increase reporting child abuse & neglect.

Jefferson (2)

- Safety of child
- In cases of abuse- substantiation and extent of family (including extended family) need to know to assist with possible placements

Two Rivers (2)

- To prove consistency within courts
- If the case is to protect others in the community

Southern Bluegrass (1)

- Need access to social workers’ dispositional reports. Often workers write factually inaccurate reports. The individual has the burden to fight these facts the rest of their lives. Social workers must be required to submit the facts or evidence and the report should be available to promote accurate facts.

Cumberland (1)

- All agencies involved should receive up to date information

16b. If public access is allowed, what additional safeguards might be necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the child and family?

Exclude identifying information (45)

Jefferson (15)

- Judge restricts identifying children
- Never release the child's name or pictures
- No faces of children- No names N
- No disclosure of the victims' names.
- Protect child's identity
- No identifying information is given to the public.
- No publicized names of children
- Names not released
- Confidentiality of the child- not exploiting child(ren) involved
- Only provide necessary information in regards to possible placements
- No names N
- Not using child or family name
- Media should be prohibited from identifying child in any manner- name, photograph, school, family information.
- The right to anonymity N
- Address & Social Security number not disclosed

Northern Bluegrass (6)

- Using child's first name only N
- Protection of identifying information N
- Eliminate names & faces in the coverage
- Anonymity of children and parents. N
- Identity of child kept secret
- Clients identity protected, use ID # to reference case. N

Salt River Trail (6)

- Protect child's identity and reason for specifics of removal, etc.
- Privacy for the child N
- I believe the child's safety and confidentiality should be protected at all steps through the court
- Keeping placements of the child while in out of home care confidential
- The privacy of the child should be #1 concern
- Prohibit any names and photo's from newspapers and television N

The Lakes (5)

- No names of family released.
- Parent info could be allowed but child info should be guarded so that children do not need to live with stigma of being a DNA child. Not sure of opinion on status offending children.
- Identity protection for child(ren) involved
- Put limitation on what can be given out
- Sensitive case information should be safeguarded such as cases of incest, rape or severe abuse.

Southern Bluegrass (4)

- Information should be released but not names, the public should know what is really going on N
- Withhold child's identity in cases
- No disclosure of names of family members
- Protect identity of child

Cumberland (4)

- Dwell on the parent and protect public exposure of the child.
- Exclude names to protect the innocent.
- Total confidentiality of child/parent's name – possible use of cameras/filming to block faces/names, but allow public to hear efforts made to reunify etc.
- Black out names of kids

Eastern Mountain (3)

- Legal proceeding only- no detailed family information
- One concern is identity of families and problems being public
- There will always be those details that should remain private in the best interest of the child and family.

Two Rivers (2)

- Edit out names, replace with numbers
- limitations on publicity

Only open to certain individuals (28)

Southern Bluegrass (6)

- structured standards limiting access to designated parties
- Only public with a legitimate right to know details.
- No media
- Not the media
- Not the media
- Don't let it become a media circus

Eastern Mountain (6)

- Should only be directly involved individuals.
- only immediate family, biological parents, step parents, and foster parents
- Press should not be allowed-
- If access is allowed- should only be a panel of individuals, not all public.
- To a neutral watchdog/ whistle blower to bring light to inconsistencies, unfairness of judges, SW, and attorneys.
- So public watch groups can provide oversight of process.

Cumberland (5)

- No media
- No media
- No reporters should be allowed
- Only certain agencies should be allowed access, the ones involved with the child.
- Only individuals with a legitimate interest should be involved.

The Lakes (5)

- Limited only to extended family or person invested with kid

- Limit public.
- Only biological/legal family members admitted, not community residents who have zero vested interest in the case.
- We should be able to develop a process for opening up the juvenile court (at judges discretion) for “need to know” individuals or relatives while still protecting identity of child.
- Keep out press

Northern Bluegrass (3)

- Only allow those with a legitimate interest in case.N
- Limit to those with the best interest of the children in mind
- No media. N

Jefferson (3)

- interested parties
- No media allowed N
- No media

There are no effective safeguards (26)

Northern Bluegrass (5)

- Wouldn't be safe at all to do. N
- N/A N
- None
- Don't allow public access to DNA proceedings N
- For the well-being of the children, public access must NOT be allowed.

Salt River Trail (5)

- Move the 10 yr old girl who was raped by her father to another state to avoid ridicule by school mates N
- How do you protect when you open the door to news media N
- Peoples lives don't need to be aired out in front of the community N
- It should not be allowed N
- Allowing the public is violating the confidentiality of the families N

The Lakes (4)

- None. If you allow it, you've already blown it. If you don't trust the ones you have to police it, maybe you need to replace them.
- If public access is allowed, there is no way to ensure safety, well-being and confidentiality of the children.
- There is no way to control the damage caused by small town gossip.
- It should not be public

Cumberland (4)

- Public access should not be allowed.
- No, No, No
- I do not think enough safeguards are in place now.
- Should not happen, confidential information

Eastern Mountain (3)

- I do not see any benefit to the family of making a public nightmare out of their private, personal, and sensitive issues.
- Once hearing become public, there are NO safeguards
- Just don't allow it!

Jefferson (2)

- Consider if parents are shown on news outcomes for child N
- 24 hour bodyguards as well as aggressive prosecution of all gossips; new identity and relocation for the child once permanency is achieved. N

Southern Bluegrass (2)

- None. You placed individuals in an unsafe situation by allowing it to be public N
- No public access

Two Rivers (1)

- The potential for following the child everywhere they go seems far too great a possibility. The more people with access to information the potential for violation of confidentiality and open a slippery slope stigmatizing the child long term

Only allow with judge's/court's discretion to close (20)

The Lakes (5)

- Judicial oversight of which cases should be public. Sensitive case information safeguarded such as cases of incest, rape, severe abuse.
- Court approval of participants allowed access to court proceedings.
- Close hearings for some matters
- At judge's discretion
- Judge and attorney's discretion

Northern Bluegrass (3)

- Court discretion N
- Should be discretionary
- Judicial discretion N

Jefferson (3)

- Court/Judge ability to seal (Fact specific)
- Judiciary discretion on whether or not to allow open court on specific cases
- Use at discretion of judge

Northeastern (3)

- Judicial discretion
- Discretion of the judge
- Give judge absolute discretion to manage privacy as required for each case

Salt River Trail (2)

- Judge allowed to close court hearings N
- Court should have option of closing N

Southern Bluegrass (2)

- Judge's discretion N
- Provisions in place to close the proceeding N

Cumberland (2)

- Access should always be subject to "judges as gatekeeper"

- No release of information without a judge's review of the intended release.

No Photographs/Videos (7)

Jefferson (3)

- No videotaping
- If opened no children should be seen or heard on camera. Children should be protected at all cost. N
- No pictures N

The Lakes (2)

- No recordings, no papers distributed.

Salt River Trail (1)

- Prohibit any photos from newspapers and television N

Northeastern (1)

- No TV in court

Southern Bluegrass (1)

- No video or internet

With Additional Security (6)

Two Rivers (3)

- Presence of uniformed deputies.
- Increased court security N
- Security for courts,

Eastern Mountain (3)

- They would have to be protected from the public, or someone could become physically violent with parents or child.
- Security systems should in the home of the child and family
- More security cameras

Other (30)

Two Rivers (7)

- The best interests of the child
- Limited Conditions
- Protect the child not the perpetrator
- Under conditions beneficial to children
- judicial admonishment to all parties. N
- Monitor the amount of openness
- Structured statewide system of release process of records N

Cumberland (7)

- System of logging who would need to access the juvenile file.
- Guardians for opening court – Closed unless actively opened.
- Safeguards are already in place in most court houses across the state to insure safety of all individual in the building.
- Perpetrator/Defendant and his/her family (immediate) not allowed to attend court proceedings at time child is in court.

- A waiting area for families with small children would be needed to reduce distractions in the court room.
- Must demonstrate respect to family – even if it’s dysfunctional
- More than just listed family members

Eastern Mountain (5)

- Kids be protected from embarrassment
- Gag order
- There should confidentiality safeguards such as penalties for releasing information.
- None are being provided in Pike County.
- Close at the very least the client’s testimony

Northern Bluegrass (4)

- Background checks on individuals attending the workshop. N
- People should be screened ahead of time.
- Full representation for parent and child
- Just media requests?

Salt River Trail (4)

- I think it would be good for the public to see the whole story court and DCBS working w families (not a one sided view)
- The person viewing should have an understanding not to spread what they read
- Informed consent and understanding of their rights
- The judge should have the discretion to interview children in closed chambers rather than testifying in a room full of people which may inhibit children from testifying

Jefferson (2)

- Therapist, social worker have input on the closing of court proceedings
- Child is not exploited and family is not sensationalized

Northeastern (1)

- Allow access by video only, not allowing individuals in the actual courtroom

**N = the respondent answered “no” to the primary question of whether courts should be open to the public.*

Appendix H: Appointment of Attorneys Prior to Temporary Removal Hearings

If yes, how would it be feasible?

Appoint when ECO Granted [24 across 8 regions]

- When judge signs ECO, he/she also appoints attorney. (14)
- Judge makes appointment at ECO and notify attorney. (2)
- Put appointed attorneys name on ECO prior to serving parents
- Judge could appoint an attorney for the parent when ECO is signed or hearing is scheduled to review petition.
- Once ECO's are filed- lawyer is assigned and must meet with parent prior to temporary
- At time eco filed assignments and contact attorney, have list and assign by listing
- Clerks could assign from a pre-approved list of on call attorney's at time of filing of petition or receipt of ECO
- When a judge signs the removal order they would have a list of attorneys and pull the name and have CHFS or police give# to family
- Auto generated when ECO signed
- With ECO, judge gives name and DCBS relays to parents

Suggestions/Issues Re: Funding/Determination of Indigence [24 across 8 regions]

Ways to Fund (14)

- Pro bono work that can be claimed on income taxes (2)
- Require family lawyers to donate continued number of hours every year for pro bono cases.
- Increase fees
- County tax
- Not sure would probably need INCREASED FUNDING!
- Representation costs would be offset by not having additional hearing prior to TPR because absent parents would be provided throughout the case.
- Court appointed to explain the court proceedings, use sliding scale in payment.
- Depends on funds available to provide those appointed attorneys
- Provide adequate funding so it would be feasible to appoint members of the local bar.
- Increase legal aid and pro bono or develop a system like Guardian Ad litem
- Money not available
- Decrease fees for lawyers.
- More funding for GAL. \$250 per sibling, group, or family is not enough to get fair representation for families.

Determination of Indigence (10)

- While if truly indigent an attorney should be provided there should be checking on the financial status and not automatically appointed (3)
- How do you determine indigence before court hearing? (2)
- Reimbursement could be required at a later date if it is determined the parent is not indigent.
- Same as criminal cases, form is filled out to verify indigent status and rotation of local attorneys to supply representation.

- Nearly everyone is poor and indigent in the county that I live (Owsley) in so almost anyone would qualify for this type of assistance, so it would work well in my community.
- Have clerks do search after petition is filed with judge to see if they are qualified.
- If qualify they stay on if not – hire private

Already Doing It [21 across 7 regions]

- We already use this option. (8)
- Already happening in Jefferson County (4)
- This is already being provided in our county- in which starts at the first hearing- ECO hearing or 10 day hearing.
- Judge appoints attorney though clerk's office as it is now.
- Though the circuit clerk's office, just as it is now
- We already do that. Parents/ guardians always have representation
- We do it now. Parent's need ask for appointment.
- Marshall/Calloway Family court judge mails the forms to the parents prior to Temporary Removal Hearing.
- Our judge in Bullitt Co. already does this
- It is common practice in our county to appoint attorneys
- This is almost automatic in our court system.

Don't Know [17 across 5 regions]

General Support/Rationale for Early Appointment [16 across 8 regions]

- Someone to represent them & try to explain what is going on. (4)
- This would allow the process to move quickly (2)
- It would help parents who don't have money and help them to better understand court proceedings.
- This will help when and if the case comes to TPR
- No idea, but with the number of cases in KY, where kids are permanently removed, parents definitely need adequate/ competent representation.
- Give a clear understanding and a voice.
- Every family needs to be empowered.
- All parents need representation, money should not be an issue
- Many people cannot afford an attorney
- Any parent should be able to contact an attorney within 72 hours.
- Not sure but everyone in court deserves to be represented
- Helps the legal process and helps to not delay hearings on down the road on the case

Appoint and process notification when petition is filed in clerk's office [13 across 7 regions]

- Appointments could be made by clerks at filing of petition and notice sent to appointed counsel by clerks in advance of removal hearing. (8)
- If the court had a list of attorneys who were willing to serve in this capacity they could be appointed on a rotating basis and sent notification of the new clients and hearing at the same time the clerk's office processed a new petition.

- At the time the petition is signed by judge, he could appoint counsel.
- The judge could appoint attorney when position is filed if SSW determined parent is indigent.
- Once a petition is filed the clerk would assign an attorney. Send notification Jefferson Co already does this
- Separate appointment list so those attorneys understand they would need to attend the TRH within 72 hours after being called/e-mailed by clerk, but GAL should also be appointed and present for TRH.

Very Feasible [13 across 7 regions]

- Very feasible (3)
- Should not be a problem (2)
- Yes (2)
- There should be more than enough availability for this. (2)
- It would be feasible
- We have plenty of lawyers in Clinton County.
- I believe there are attorneys that would be willing to do this.
- We will just have to work a little harder to pre-arrange

Not Feasible within the 72 Hour Timeframe [12 across 3 regions]

- Not enough attorneys – wouldn't be feasible (2)
- It would not (2)
- Not very feasible due to time frames.(2)
- It is not feasible - per demographics (our public defender system operates from 50 miles away). Our local attorney population is inadequate.
- Probably not feasible. We need more attorneys willing to represent children and indigent parents. Only the “worst” will do these cases.
- I don't know – the attorney's in Laurel Co. are overwhelmed with cases.
- To hear our family court judge, it's not feasible
- We're trying – court admin rounds up the lawyers – however this effort is running head first into the 72 hr rule this needs to be worked out together
- Not very feasible due to short notice and not enough attorneys

Use Public Defenders [10 across 6 regions]

- Public defenders programs could be used (4)
- appoint legal aid (3)
- Public Advocate office (2)
- Appointment and removal, hire attorney much like public defender to represent parents

Would Need to Increase Number of Attorneys in the Area [10 across 5 regions]

- We need more attorneys willing to represent children and indigent parents. (4)
- Only with an increase of public defenders.(2)
- Through recruitment of more attorneys to be placed on the rotating roster
- Would need increased quantity of attorney and increased quality of knowing the system.
- Increase in staff at local level

- Would require more attorneys with more time to spend with the family

Use List of Attorney's Recruited for this Purpose [9 across 4 regions]

- Have a list of attorneys willing to participate (3)
- Have a pool of attorneys, clerk could notify next on list to be present at the temporary removal hearing (2)
- Court system should recruit attorney to participate.
- Appoint from local bar list
- Form a panel as the GAL panel is run
- Have a set group of attorneys that could represent parents at TRH

Use Attorneys Already Present on that Day in Court [9 across 4 regions]

- Local attorneys are present on court dates. Can be immediately appointed to represent. (5)
- We have a closed panel of GAL's/attorneys that represent at all hearings.
- Contact attorney who is available
- Have attorneys' in court room to meet with parents
- Have court appointed attorneys in rotation of court dates & serve attorneys for specific dates

Judge's Office/Court Administrator Simply Notify Attorney to be Present [7 across 5 regions]

- Attorneys notified to be present prior to hearing by judge's office (3)
- Have local attorney's made aware of potential TRH
- Judge can call counsel usually within a 24 hr notice
- family court admin can solicit attorneys for appointment for parent and child at time of setting TRH.
- Call local Attorney before temporary removal hearing. Make sure attorney can be present.

Have Staff Attorney for Parents [6 across 4 regions]

- have staff attorney for parents (2)
- AOC staff attorneys. Rural counties have an inadequate number of attorneys and even those are not all committed to advocating for children.
- By the assignment of staff attorney positions in rural communities.
- Staff attorney under DPA or some other agency – could be shared by all counties
- If yes, attorney for parents would need to be state employees like public defenders. Private attorney cannot always be on call.

Provide Parents with Notice on How to Request Appointment When Served with Summons [4 across 4 regions]

- DNA should be served on parent with summons with instruction to request attorney prior to TRH (2)
- Computer generated at time of filing and added to order and given to family at time of notification
- Parent contact clerk's office following notification of hearing date

Appoint at Hearing, then Allow Time to Meet Prior to Proceeding [3 across 3 regions]

- Appoint at hearing and allow them to meet/ discuss things, then proceed with the hearing. (2)
- Take time at beginning of session with time to meet briefly with parents prior to heading (1/2 hour)

Cabinet Worker Provide Notice to Parent on Obtaining an Appointment if Indigent [3 across 3 regions]

- The workers could give the parents an indigent form prior to hearing and turn into the clerk's office (2)
- have CHFS or police give# to family

Other [31]

- Every effort should be made to contact parents; inform them and keep them informed to the best degree possible.
- Have a pre-temp removal hearing to establish this.
- Attorneys might be "appointed" upon opening a case, though I'm not sure of how it would be dealt with to ensure efficiency.
- Have workers complete form at the time of removal and turn it into circuit court clerk.
- Give parents representation to make appeals for TPR
- Court appointed attorney's
- Court designated
- Only if it doesn't delay providing for the child
- If parents are negligent they should pay their own attorney.
- Will this delay the removal of children?
- Would have to work through the judge and our judge does an excellent job
- Not always available, though reluctant to proceed on highly contested cases with legitimate questions
- Not all parents represented by an attorney
- Possibly through CASA
- I think one to three attorneys should be appointed for each case to have consistency. Pay them GAL fees.
- Fairly feasible if more attorneys were mandated to take the cases rather than being allowed to select the cases they want.
- Perhaps not necessarily an attorney, but someone who can advocate for them and guide them through the system (court and child welfare).
- Usually already had access through criminal proceedings
- Someone to communicate directly with the biological parents
- Same way public defenders are appointed/assigned.
- e-mail, first assign and call when you get the ECO.
- Have an on-call attorney for counties that go to the home
- Simply fill out forms
- Coordinate scheduling of attorneys in advance of initial hearings so that each attorney is assured that time is not wasted.
- Call GAL when call parents for TRH
- Attorneys rotate "on call"

- Use UK and any law students
- Educating judges, prosecutors, and attorney on how
- Removal should happen for protection of child
- Some parents can't read/ write or their level of understanding is limited. Prior contact in neutral environment could greatly benefit families as to what the process entails. Court advisors assigned to cases.

Appendix I: Establishment of a Paternity Registry for Putative Fathers

Don't know [22 across 7 regions]

- Don't know (18)
- I don't know enough about paternity register to answer. (2)
- No opinion
- I don't know what this is

Maintained by Child Support Office/County Attorney [15 across 6 regions]

- Through the child support office (7)
- County Attorney's Office (2)
- Through county attorney's office- child support (2)
- Perhaps it could be organized through Child Support in conjunction with Family Support through birth mothers being required to name potential father; father being notified that he has been named.
- County attorney should oversee this registry
- database/ Co. attorney
- Tested and confirmed by county attorney for child support

Mandatory Paternity/DNA Testing [10 across 5 regions]

- All potential fathers should be tested (2)
- The only effective way would require all males to submit DNA like the draft (2)
- Mandatory paternity testing upon birth of child and before reaching 6 months of age
- DNA registry
- All divorce cases should require DNA testing.
- DNA testing should be free of charge and then reimbursed through child support
- Track by DNA
- DNA bank?

General Support/Rationale for Registry [10 across 7 regions]

- To make a permanent placement happen quicker for the child/children.
- Yes
- Need to be prepared for TPR's and no continuance
- They need to pay.
- It would shorten determination if more than one child and multiple mothers
- To enforce paternal engagement – “there is a difference between a sperm donor and a dad.”
- Fathers need to be responsible for their children, whether by parenting or by supplying their basic needs.
- Men should take responsibility for their children-even before they are born.
- There should be a concerted effort to identify fathers – at an early stage to ensure child support and to track location of fathers if they are transient.
- To keep up with them

On Internet for Public Access [9 across 5 regions]

- Accessible public (internet) (4)
- Placed on website. (3)
- I think that there should be a site on the internet in order for the whole world to see.
- Open to the public in a manner that society can see the person's actions

Establish Alleged Paternity at Birth/at Hospital/Health Care Provider [7 across 4 regions]

- From the hospital
- At hospital – many are present/visit when child is born.
- At birth, should be mandatory for mothers to reveal birth father
- It would be easy to ID the fathers at birth of child, but hard to keep track of them.
- Mothers should name possible father on birth record and go from there.
- Set up at the health department
- When a woman finds out she is pregnant it should be added to the normal procedures that the Health Department or doctors office goes through...get the alleged name of the father so that he can immediately be tested for paternity even before the baby is born by having blood work already done. This would help prevent the number of dead-beat dads out there by making them think about what is happening to the female that is expecting a baby...it will give them more responsibility even from the very beginning.

Patterned Upon Sex Offender Registry [6 across 4 regions]

- Design similar to sex offender registry (4)
- On website like sex-offenders registry (2)

Voluntary Registration of Potential Fathers [6 across 4 regions]

- Voluntary opt-in by putative fathers (3)
- Father should register if they think they could be father
- As per Ohio, putative fathers can call in
- Onus has to be on fathers to register, and registry would then be searched when mother reports putative father's name-good procedure safeguard.

Computerized Database [5 across 4 regions]

- Computer database (3)
- Data base with current personal information
- This is done in many states; could be electronic

Maintained by Courts [4 across 3 regions]

- It should be entered by the courts.
- In some way it could possibly be in family court and filed there.
- Should be posted on the AOC website
- Through court system

Restrict Access to Courts/Cabinet [3 across 3 regions]

- Open to courts and CHFS only
- Website access thru courts and CHFS

- Should be able to be accessed any time by authorized persons i.e. – social workers, court person

Do Not Establish a Registry [3 across 2 regions]

- Absolutely not
- It would turn into Jerry Springer
- Not the way in has been currently proposed. It is designed to cut off rights of fathers. Would be okay if no limit on when father could register.

Maintained by Cabinet/TWIST [2 across 2 regions]

- Through the TWIST system
- Through CHFS

Widely Publicized [2 across 2 regions]

- list advertised widely through media and agencies.
- publicized monthly in local/state papers

Other [21]

- all fathers in KY should be on notice to register within 12 months or lose any rights to the child
- Completed by deposition
- Direct link to driver's license. Accessible to employers
- Computerized list from support orders
- Putative fathers should be required to maintain contact info in the event of adoption to save backlog of adoption cases
- Fathers should share the responsibility with the mother.
- Any father on list who gets food stamps would have a portion to their child(ren).
- any mother may name a father to the registry,
- When come into care, document father.
- Cross-reference it with NCIC, KASES, and other databases.
- Similar to Ohio.
- By # and support \$
- When paternity established create technology to report to the IRS.
- Don't care
- There has to be consequences
- I thought we did
- By SSN
- Indiana has this I believe --might be able to get information from them
- Statewide formal record kept
- I think it is a case by case basis

Appendix J: Improving Communication and Understanding

Q 20: How to Improve Communication and Understanding: Child Welfare

Regular interagency meetings [177 across all 9 regions]

General Interdisciplinary Meetings (104)

- Interdisciplinary meetings to promote collaboration (86)
- More informal 'brown bag' lunches at local level. (2)
- More interagency meetings. Not just between supervisors but for staff as well.
- Family court meetings involving all agencies that work with families to discuss concerns and steps to address them.
- Foster care Review Bd. Can schedule joint meetings/ discussions of DCBS/ Attorneys/ Judges/ Review Bd. Judges/ attorney should be mandated to attend. Only one attorney attended and district judge at the only one held in 1997.
- Establish local councils to meet on a regular basis to discuss how to make process better for families.
- Adequate time and the appropriate setting to meet and discuss the issues that need to be addressed
- Team meetings to discuss shared responsibility and better compromise.
- Meet and greets
- Meetings between local DCBS, CDW, DJJ.
- Increased meetings of representatives from service providers, DCBS & courts, & legislators.
- Group meetings with a mediator involved.
- Actually have meetings where processes of each program is explained
- Ongoing meetings with actions assigned and follow up for accountability.
- Frequent summits/team meetings in individual counties of designated disciplines.
- Interagency meetings coordinated by local judges. No one else seems to be able to get everyone to the table.
- Meetings between judges and review board members
- The agencies need to have functions in each location to foster relationships between the agencies.

Quarterly Meetings (37)

- Quarterly meetings between agencies (27)
- Regular quarterly meetings involving judges, a social worker, community partners in the court system and the CHFS regional management.
- Quarterly multidisciplinary meetings held by the court/county attorney and have an agenda to discuss hot topics/issues/roles.
- Quarterly brown bag meeting with subject driven key note speakers
- Judges, attorney and community partners meet quarterly to discuss (consult) on cases.
- Regular (quarterly) meetings with a neutral facilitator
- Multidisciplinary meetings quarterly, bi yearly, or annually.
- Quarterly meetings with specific systemized points.
- Monthly or quarterly meetings with representations reporting to agencies

- Local agency meeting 2x per year
- Quarterly meetings of community partners within counties to discuss issues

Annual Summits/Conferences (24)

- Summits to gather all agencies together to communicate (13)
- Required annual face to face conferences between professionals to improve communication.
- Have interagency training/get together two times a year. (2)
- Annual conferences that are mandated for all professionals
- Maybe establish a mock summit in local areas.
- More summits in which local leadership (Judges, FSOs, etc.) participate
- More summits with more court participation
- We need a summit where all professional agencies discuss what services they offer.
- More meetings of this nature, follow-ups.
- I think that more of these summits need to be held and all agencies that remotely have anything to do with children should be invited in order to make other agencies aware of the various programs that are available to the kids in Kentucky.
- Conferences like this. Perhaps a panel of each agency to explain their role

Monthly Meetings (18)

- Professional agencies and the court system personnel should communicate on a regular basis via scheduled weekly or monthly meetings. (13)
- Monthly multidisciplinary meetings with community representatives as well
- Core Group- mtg. monthly- rep from each partner to develop strategies toward resolutions to issues
- Bi-monthly meetings so people can actually get together to discuss issues at hand and resolve those problems together.
- Monthly meetings for agency leaders/administrative staff
- A group of delegates from child resource agencies who can meet at least quarterly, ideally monthly, to address individuals/children their agencies are all working with to streamline their services.

Mandatory Meetings (11)

- Regular meetings that are mandatory (9)
- Legislation needs to mandate meetings for all agencies involved.
- Mandatory meetings every 6 months or trainings

Training/Cross-Training [103 across all 9 regions]

General Cross-Training (52)

- Cross professional training (46)
- All judges/ attorneys should have to go through the P&P advocacy *cross training*
- More training for Cabinet and Court employees to discuss ways to improve
- More cross trainings with focus groups to hear what each person does
- Cross training, not just multidisciplinary meetings such as the summit regional meetings, but rather trainings given by knowledgeable professionals from various agencies to collaterals-

e.g. DJJ supervisors training juvenile court staff, judges, lawyers, CHFS staff about their roles and duties, etc.

- Cross training, personnel orientation
- We do well- have model court cross-training

General Training (31)

- More training (10)
- Training for all agencies (5)
- Be educated on each agencies procedures and policies. (2)
- job shadowing – walk a mile in each others shoes (2)
- Annual trainings
- Better training to DCBS front line workers
- Educate all agencies involved- Remember: The child’s welfare is the goal- not which agency has control
- Better and more regular training for judges
- Education of participants – attorneys, GALs,
- More regional training
- Someone at the court system needs to be available to explain process beginning to end; trainings should be available to judges/ court social workers about community resources.
- Mandatory legal training
- Better basic training for social workers

Role Clarification Training/Opportunities (20)

- All agencies involved in dealing with this type of population need to educate one another on their individual programs and duties/ roles in the system. (14)
- Outside agencies do not understand DCBS policy (for example 15/22 [15 of 22 months in care as criteria for filing TPR], ASFA, etc.). Outside programs need to understand child welfare laws.
- Training of social workers about CASA
- Some training that focuses on what and how each entity does what it does would be helpful in everyone getting a clearer picture of how we intertwine for the best interest of the child and what may be the limits of what can be done.
- having a very short version of new employee training that we do with workers from other agencies
- Local/ Regional trainings on a quarterly basis regarding the different roles of each agency and their service procedures
- Training with CHFS regarding DJJ & vice versa (also CDW)

Multidisciplinary Approach/Communication/Collaboration [81 across all 9 regions]

General Collaboration (30)

- More collaboration between court and agencies (19)
- More “working lunches” between front line CHFS and community partners. CHFS management is not qualified to do this; front-line staff should be made more aware.
- A direct, face to face team effort

- Include school system for their knowledge – they know more about the student than anyone else.
- Collaboration- M.O.A.'s
- Children rights, not parents rights need to come first everyone involved needs to be on the “same page” and working towards a common goal.
- Involving judges/staff in monthly CCC meetings in each county
- Expectations to work together – enforced by funding contract, stop meeting in sites – R/C, DNA services, etc.
- More appreciation for each other and foster a sense of teamwork among agencies/workers/anyone involved
- I think that having more liaisons between the agencies will aide in better communication. Social service work with CASA
- Mutual respect-- opportunities to share ideas/ input
- More collaboration mandated

Improved Communication (25)

- Open communication between all agencies involved (20)
- communication between social service staff and judges/attorneys. Judges and attorneys do not understand our job/duties and responsibilities.
- support for cross agency communication by supervisors
- MOU on communication
- Communication and most all present, everyone on same page in a meeting, not he said she said, we said, they said.
- Our agencies should talk between one another, without upper management and communicate with one another. We can work out our problems.

Multidisciplinary Teams/Conferences on Individual Cases (12)

- A multidisciplinary committee in each county so all agencies can sit down and learn about cases at the same time before decisions are made Re: that family (5)
- More multidisciplinary case conferences/ family team meetings (5)
- Have social workers invite all parties to case conferences and court and provide reports to those not present for case conferences.
- A meeting together at Court Pre-Conference with ALL agencies involved in a particular case and an assumption of Respect for each person would be a start.

Councils/Committees (9)

- Regional interagency councils (4)
- Cross disciplinary committees within each county and required. (2)
- Family court council (2)
- joint task forces

Identify Coordinator/Champion (2)

- Someone should be appointed at each level (local) to insure all stakeholders associated with the child. Include school personnel – we could be a valuable resource.

- Each area needs a well placed administrator to champion communication and cooperation between agencies and must start at the top.

Strategies to Promote Information Sharing [51 across all 9 regions]

Relax Confidentiality Laws/Policies (15)

- More open/less strict restrictions on confidentiality to be able to share information among professionals (8)
- Open hearings, access to records (2)
- Everyone needs to be able to speak without fear of HIPPA violation (2)
- Notification to all parties
- Legislative action taken to eliminate confidentiality issues for all agencies that work with children.
- Better knowledge of what each agency can and cannot do, less strict confidentiality between agencies regarding children.

Community Resource Directories/Lists/Newsletters (14)

- Community resource directory with service provider names, contact information, and services provided/description. (6)
- On-line resource directory that can be updated by each agency as changes occur. (3)
- Education of resources that are available (2)
- Quarterly memos from each agency.
- Exchange of information in newsletter form.
- Seminars, handbooks.

Release of Information Forms/Processes (11)

- Universal release of information so we can actually talk to one another about these children (6)
- Mandatory release of information for all agencies involved (2)
- Release of information involving all agencies involved.
- Standard statewide system/forms/protocol for all parties to all do the same thing. releases signed up front for agencies to talk to each other

Use of Technology (10)

- Use all e-mail address collected to e-mail all information gathered to everyone. (3)
- Develop a multi-use/multi-agency website (2)
- Universal computer data system (2)
- Easier to access case info. DCBS could benefit from knowing what children are involved with court/CDW/DJJ
- Common computer systems
- Utilization of technology-computerized court orders, dockets, etc.

Professionalism/Increased Accountability [35 across all 9 regions]

General Accountability (22)

- All parties should be held accountable for decisions (4)

- Timelier filing of reports by Cabinet to keep judge & county attorney informed as to status of case.
- The inappropriate view among an agency to filter thru to others among the agency to spill into the court and cause problems without a program.
- Be open to hear feedback whether it be positive or negative.
- Don't really have an answer. I feel the judge does not listen to recommendations.
- This starts at administrative level. Create roles, place right people in them, and develop clear systems with consequences that work.
- Stop passing the buck or blame on others interagency communication.
- A complete evaluation needs to occur regarding local agencies which are staffed by incompetent personnel whose "assumptions" are responsible for the crippling of a child
- Set agendas that lead to production instead of finger pointing.
- Understanding that everyone is responsible for children's welfare. No "passing off" cases and forgetting them.
- More professional behavior
- The court does not partner with my agency and looks down upon us. It would also help that the judges were required to attend AOC summits as none did from Hardin County
- Clarified/ enforced expectations for county attorneys. Increased pay/training and expectations for GAL's.
- Smaller dockets to allow for meaningful review and system accountability (Including CPS). In summary better training, on going dialogue, resources and accountability.
- All agencies need to put the best interests of the children. Agencies need to support each other.
- Stress the need for all parties to work toward what is in the best interest of the children and their families
- Make all parts of the system as responsible for the outcomes as you do DJJ and DCBS.
- Positive interaction between DJJ/DCBS and the courts, removal of the "that's the way we have always done it" system; younger judges, more public defenders, more efforts by all involved.
- Expectations from top that conflict, misinformation, will be processed not just ignored and become part of a story about that agency.

Less Focus on Turf Issues/Boundary Issues (7)

- Get over turf issues. Think about end results – doing what is best for the child and family.
- State agencies need to move from an adversarial relationship with providers to partnershiping.
- Less focus on turf issues, more on service providers
- CFC & DJJ had to work together better. There seems to be a competition between these agencies.
- DCBS and DJJ need to learn to play well together. The agencies are too territorial at times
- Agencies should concentrate on their own job duties ex, school staff should not try to be social workers or vice versa
- People and agencies must have boundaries and maintain their boundaries.

Mutual Respect (5)

- Each agency should respect the others and give whoever is involved equal status (4)
- Social workers should be treated more respect personnel sometimes ignore the role the social workers plays. They often take on the s. worker's role. Definitions of roles need defining.

Consistency in Interpretation of Statute/Practice (2)

- Attorney, judges stop adapting to and manipulating laws to their advantage. A law s a law for everyone's protection.
- Organization and consistency in handling and dispensation of cases.

Increase Staffing/Decrease Caseload [9 across 6 regions]

- Have less case load per DCBS worker in order that they have more time to communicate (3)
- More staffing to allow workers/staff time to attend meetings and do better work. (2)
- Fully staffed agencies to allow staff time to listen and communicate better.
- More workers, less bureaucracy
- DJJ, CDW and MH/SA therapists need to have the time and flexibility in their schedules to meet on cases they have in common.
- More family court judges

Other

- 1 case 1 Judge always (3)
- More involvement of supervisors present during court hearings. (2)
- The report forms need to be changed – they (in my region) tend to be impersonal (i.e. boiler plate) and repetitive.
- Make it the child's best interest
- Need to send reports to attorneys and guardians not just the cabinet worker.
- Timely notification of meetings in cases in which we are involved
- Lack of time and resources.
- Have both agencies report to the same organization.
- Cabinet reports should mirror NCJFCJ permanency questionnaire.
- Office of courts needs to understand and make home visits. SW report unsure family dynamics.
- Make it part of orientation to shadow front line workers
- Keep families together by having one family one court one case manager
- Decrease the number of individuals involved with a family. The smaller the team the better the communication.
- More smaller groups for coordinating services
- Judge in Boyd Co. hates all social workers & shows it during court proceedings.
- I am a circuit judge and don't deal with these issues very often
- Honoring all involved in child's treatment (i.e. foster parents, etc.)
- Lower stigma
- MAKE THEM
- DPA needs to represent parents in DNA cases - effective communication
- Legislation clerks defining roles and responsibilities – legislative committee to help ensure implementation of legislation.

- I think that having too many lawyers involved usually means lots of schedules to coordinate, thus all the continuances.
- In our community, we need a central resource so that the court can recommend these resources to our clients.
- CPPC in every county or at least a similar program.
- Agency directors need to allow their people to do so
- Once a child enters the legal system some type of educational or advocate counseling and assistance be provided
- Case managers
- Social workers need to be educated on CDW's and "beyond control" complaints. Many parents are told by social workers that they have to file a beyond control to cover themselves. Many times it doesn't meet criteria.

Q 21: How to Improve Communication and Understanding: Juvenile Justice

Training/Cross-Training [105 across all 9 regions]

General Cross-Training (51)

- Cross training (39)
- Cross training and education of all roles/policies and mandates in system (6)
- More cross collaboration/training to involve court personnel, community partners, and DCBS so that face-to-face communication is possible. Field workers, at times, feel removed from the chance to affect change by such interaction. They feel isolated and this can affect morale. When an individual has the perception that their suggestions or insight is valued they are more likely to have a better work product. Take a person's feeling of contribution away and they become dejected and this can negatively affect the way they provide services to families and individuals that are experiencing abuse, neglect, or some type of traumatic family dynamic that makes basic functioning possible. Then, afterward, feed-back/follow up is provided so that everyone can be made aware of what is being done with the information gathered during the collaboration/training.
- Cross training, not just multidisciplinary meetings such as the summit regional meetings, but rather trainings given by knowledgeable professionals from various agencies to collaterals- e.g. DJJ supervisors training juvenile court staff, judges, lawyers, CHFS staff about their roles and duties, etc.
- Team management and cross training
- Cross training when new workers come in and existing workers
- Training with CHFS regarding DJJ & vice versa & CDW's
- Cross training and ongoing training/dialogue with local judges and co attorneys

General Training (30)

- More/better training (17)
- job shadowing (2)
- More regional training
- Each discipline should hear instructions presented by senior leaders in other disciplines
- Top down training
- Judges to have trainings
- Make judges learn what all social workers actually do
- Educate each group
- Training for all agencies
- Educational/informative sessions between agencies.
- Have DJJ come to local staff meeting and educate staff
- trainings, make them mandatory
- Juvenile justice needs to have more understanding about family dynamics/issues that lead children to juvenile justice.
- They should become more educated re: legal guidelines utilized, etc.

Role Clarification Training/Opportunities (24)

- Clear understanding of the role each agency plays regarding status – public defenders & CHFS. (13)
- Clear definitions of individual roles- What part each individual/ group plays in the system? (5)
- All agencies involved in dealing with this type of population need to educate one another on their individual programs and duties/ roles in the system. We all need to decide what purpose our programs have in the system and then all decide together how we can assist one another in carrying out what our programs are intended to do.
- CDWs, social workers, DJJ should host a workshop to present exactly what they do & when; then follow up with a worthy discussion of how we can work better together
- Local/ Regional Trainings on a quarterly basis regarding the different roles of each agency and their service procedures. This should include local law enforcement agencies, assistant county attorney, safe houses, etc.
- Training for other agencies to understand CDW job duties
- DPP, DJJ, and judge need to understand what services DPP & DJJ provide.
- Attendance at each other conferences of public awareness of specific job responsibility (who does what?)

Regular Interagency Meetings [87 across all 9 regions]

General Interdisciplinary Meetings (41)

- More interagency/multidisciplinary meetings to discuss roles and issues/promote collaboration (28)
- There needs to be frequent regional meetings of all those involved with the care of children and it should have speakers from different agencies to tell what they do, the services they provide, the costs for the services, if any.
- Regional meetings among agencies
- Regional meeting with CHFS/DJJ in developing & cross over of services
- Multi disciplinary meetings facilitated by a leader responsible for agenda.
- Key players need regular staffing to discuss obstacles, achievements, and game plans.
- To have meetings with other agencies to include low level staff
- Joint meetings, reaching out to new agencies
- Workshops, mixers, informal discussions
- The agencies need to have functions in each location to foster relationships between the agencies.
- Regular meetings, lunch and learns, advisory meetings
- Group meetings with a mediator involved.
- Meetings with DJJ to talk about issues and come to solutions
- Agency “shared purposes” in informal settings at least once a year

Annual Summits/Conferences (17)

- Hold more summits for all agencies (9)
- More conferences and presentations (4)
- annual meetings (2)

- I feel more conferences like this particular one. It ensures different opinions and ways to help families and children
- Regional summits

Quarterly Meetings (14)

- Quarterly meetings of all the partners (9)
- Quarterly multidisciplinary meetings held by the court/county attorney and have an agenda to discuss hot topics/issues/roles.
- Quarterly brown bag meeting with subject driven key note speakers
- Quarterly meetings to discuss current issues within each dept.
- Quarterly meetings to review services, procedures, and guidelines
- Quarterly local meetings to exchange new policies, news, etc.

Monthly Meetings (10)

- Monthly meetings between agencies (7)
- Core Group- mtg. monthly- rep from each partner to develop strategies toward resolutions to issues
- Monthly multidisciplinary meetings with community representatives as well
- Professional agencies and the court system personnel should communicate on a regular basis via scheduled weekly or monthly meetings.

Mandatory Meetings (5)

- Regular meetings with mandatory attendance. (4)
- Mandatory interagency meeting of court, attorney, CASA, & DCBS

Multidisciplinary Approach/Communication/Collaboration [71 across 8 regions]

Improved Communication (32)

- More dialogue interagency (All providers) (16)
- Having more liaisons between the agencies will aide in better communication. Willingness to listen to each other
- Multidiscipline teams in each county to define roles more clearly and to work on solving issues of miscommunication
- More thorough communication from agencies to people that can and will change laws.
- Phone conferences of all people involved in cases
- Currently no procedures in place to support or encourage communication
- More time to talk about cases. Top management made to receive information and pass down to others.
- Staff need time to meet and talk (DJJ, CDW and MH/SA therapists need to have the time and flexibility in their schedules to meet on cases they have in common)
- Publicity- most (or many) are not aware of other agencies and resources
- Don't assume the other one is handling things. Call them.
- Decrease the number of individuals involved with a family. The smaller the team the better the communication.

- communication between social service staff and judges/attorneys. Judges and attorneys do not understand our job/duties and responsibilities. Lack of time and resources. Everyone from other agencies tend to look down on “cabinet” staff.
- This can only be done through open communication on the local levels. The relationship between local agencies and the courts has to be so that open conversation can take place to ask questions and discuss issues as they arise. A key factor in this is allowing time and the appropriate atmosphere to form appropriate professional relationship and setting aside time to discuss and problem solve the issues and problems unique to your area.
- Better communication between P&P & DJJ. Both should work on same goal for child.
- Open communication with parents or guardian of the child involved.
- two-way communication; not limited to when juvenile justice has a need or crisis
- All agencies have the same set of rules for open communication.

General Collaboration (25)

- More collaboration between all involved agencies (16)
- Has be a determined effort at cabinet(s) level to work together.
- Collaboration- M.O.A.’s
- Need definite collaboration between district (delinq.) and family court
- Build a sense of teamwork – notice each others positive influences and play down anything negative
- More DJJ/Cabinet involvement
- Use (or more widespread use) of liaisons between dependency and juvenile proceedings.
- Mandated community collaborations
- Work together and not trying to put a feather in your hat for handling it alone
- Multidisciplinary panels at all levels

Multidisciplinary Teams/Conferences on Individual Cases (11)

- Multi-disciplinary meetings scheduled more frequently to address cases more thoroughly. (5)
- Quarterly meetings to review cases and share solution (2)
- Community partners need to attend the family team meetings.
- Juvenile justice needs to participate in family team meetings
- Mandated to attend family team meetings on juvenile cases
- Bi-monthly treatment meetings.

Interagency Councils/Committees (3)

Strategies to Promote Information Sharing [38 across all 9 regions]

Use of Technology (13)

- E-mail information to all parties (4)
- Web sites to provide current info (4)
- All agencies move into and work out of the same computer program. (3)
- Easier access to various agencies/ records, etc.

- Regional and state wide data base of services available and is updated monthly. Should be online access.

Community Resource Directories/Lists/Newsletters (12)

- Community resource directory with service provider names, contact information, and services provided/description. (6)
- A written uniform code providing a description of responsibilities/ services offered by each agency (2)
- Newsletter (2)
- Sometimes neither prosecutor, CHFS worker and court do not know what is currently available
- Quarterly memos from each agency

Relax Confidentiality Laws/Policies (8)

- Way to communicate without breaking confidentiality (3)
- Information sharing abilities (3)
- Legislative action taken to eliminate confidentiality issues for all agencies that works with children.
- MOU concerning availability of confidential information

Release of Information Forms/Processes (5)

- Mandatory release of information of all agencies involved. (3)
- Release of information involving all agencies involved.
Unified release of information forms

Professionalism/Increased Accountability [21 across 7 regions]

Less Focus on Turf Issues/Boundary Issues (9)

- DJJ needs to stop dumping public offenders on DCBS using the case that they can not place the delinquent youth (2)
- Stop the “case dumping” and do your assigned jobs. (2)
- People and agencies must have boundaries and maintain their boundaries- boundaries, boundaries, boundaries and respect the co-worker.
- Stop passing the BUCK!!
- DCBS to be willing to reach across the “fortress walls.”
- Work on territorial issues.
- Move status to dep. neg & abuse court

General Accountability (7)

- Everyone be held accountable
- More personal involvement with accountability for all.
- DJJ will not respond on call after hours.
- Accountability and a philosophy shift in DJJ to engage families.
- Require court personnel to attend

- Sometimes I think there are too many chefs stirring the stew, meaning because there are so many people involved with one child people start assuming a project is taken care of.
- Status offenders could be better served by DJJ.

Mutual Respect (5)

- Each agency should respect the others and give whoever is involved equal status. (4)
- Encourage judges to “work with” social workers verses yelling at them and making them scared to death to even go to court.

Increase Staffing/Decrease Caseload [5 across 4 regions]

- Smaller case loads, more workers = more time to communicate.
- Workers have been doing “too much” data entry and have not had enough time to build relationships with juvenile offenders. There needs to be an emphasis on relationship building. Record keeping is _____ and _____.
- Staff and time
- Full staffing of agencies to allow time to attend meetings and public forums.
- If each program had sufficient staffing it would decrease the tendency to take advantage of sister agencies and/ or drop problems on other’s doorstep.

Other

- Juvenile court needs to not be viewed as punitive. Also, I feel the school BOEs need to be made aware of laws and policies and understand that detaining youth because they curse at staff or throw things on the bus is not the answer.
- Apply to access records on time
- Reform.
- Reports should be at routine intervals – not just docket-driven. They need not be long and/or detailed – rather, update should be forwarded as they occur.
- Have a centralized reporting agency
- Court caseworker assigned to each case (limit caseload) that coordinates all service agencies, roles and duties.
- I think that every agency needs to be represented in court.
- DJJ can’t access FPP type in-home services.
- S.A.B
- Juvenile justice is misunderstood- and most misunderstood by DJJ staff Rehab us. punishment must be priority!
- Standard statewide system/forms/protocol for all parties to all do the same thing.
- SAA
- Mandatory LIAC RIAC attendance
- Uniform way to prosecute violent juvenile offenders separate detention facility
- Family court carried and all players team at 5th day planning meetings in foster care
- Make interested parties aware of court proceedings and value their input and presence and knowledge of court cases.
- A parent should not be able to leave one court system if they are in contempt, regardless of whether the judge has already signed an order for that case to be transferred.

- Outreach
- GAL's more involved face to face interviews with child, foster parents, relatives, workers
- More diversion opportunities
- Make resources accessible to agencies

Appendix K: Improving Accessibility of Treatment and Services

Funding [175 across all 9 regions]

General Funding (72)

- Need more funds (66)
- Funding for all including for new hires to better service clients overall
- More funding for extreme western KY.
- Fundraising
- Additional funding – performance based contracting
- Money must be spent. Must be mandated by the state.
- Open proceedings and public awareness program to increase funding

Funding for Specific Services (71)

- Money for services for families in our area (33)
- More funding recognizing both substance and mental health treatment needs (8)
- More funding for first end services/prevention (4)
- We have very little access to treatment and it is often cost prohibitive. Many counties have no resources. So I guess the answer is financial and/or political. State must provide the means for services.
- Need more money for DJJ kids
- More funding to provide schools with preventative measures
- Regrettably, \$\$\$\$ is needed. DCBS and DJJ are our ONLY services in our county.
- Provide more funding to hire social service aids in each county DCBS office, as well as more prevention programs for rural communities.
- Money to have facilities and qualified staff.
- More funds made available for transportation to resources and clinics.
- More money to get/keep qualified professionals in rural areas.
- More funding for additional specialized treatments for juvenile and adults.
- Provide drug treatment programs for parents, parenting classes, DV classes, and Anger management classes at no charge if indigent.
- Voucher system to give qualified mental health provider to allow certain numbers of family sessions for treatment
- More funding needs to be given to communities that continue to struggle with poverty, unemployment, and substance abuse.
- More money for resources. Cabinet cannot bear all the costs for needs of the family.
- Drug testing is an issue in our area and is a necessity.
- It seems that most treatment resources in my area are targeted at the adult population. More funding needs to be made available for children to receive these same services.
- Increase funding for CMHCs to provide the needed services
- More funding for more beds in these facilities and designation of specific number of beds available for each county dependent upon county's population, thereby requiring smaller counties to exercise better discretion in their commitment of juvenile offenders.
- More funding for existing services and funding for front end services.

- Increased funding-80% of families in P & P affected by substance abuse and yet NO treatment.
- More funding – funding for CMHC’s has been flat over 12 years – Medicaid per diems are too low.
- Get money for more facilities – none in North Key
- More affordable assessment and treatment options
- The services are not always free and we have a lot of poorer families in our region.
- More funding to create and maintain services. Families are being asked to complete services that don’t exist for them in our area.
- Assess the needs in each county and then assess how money is allowed to meet those needs (i.e. Community mental health agencies, etc.)
- Currently there are services, agencies pay so little that they programs can never stabilize staff. How good is a drug treatment program if you have a different counselor every few months?

Free or Reduced Fee for Services (19)

- Free/limited cost resources that are in the county or close (7)
- affordability of mental health/ substance abuse treatment (2)
- More programs that help parents pay for treatment and assessments
- Free mental health services to court ordered individuals, possibly run by the state, not contracted through local mental health agencies, because FREE cases would be put as least priority.
- Sliding scale for individuals who do not qualify for free services but not have the money for services
- free parenting classes, free drug screening
- Mandate agencies that are already in place to waive fees
- sliding scale fees for services
- Stop making poor families pay for assessments that the cabinet is requiring.
- Need to be able to waive fees/ costs to families without insurance or ability to pay
- Funds to receive the services, No assessment fees/ Or very low cost assessment fees.
- Free drug screens for clients.

Insurance Issues (9)

- Provide more funding for families that don’t have insurance, but are not eligible for medical card
- \$ funding \$ easier access to medical card
- More providers that accept medical care on sliding scale so clients can afford services
- Something for those people with no insurance besides commitment for substance abuse treatment.
- Facilitate acceptance of KY medical card among providers
- Increase/ expansion of insurance providers who are eligible to cover costs of each agency or resource.
- Free counseling and assessments/treatment for families that do not qualify for passport or medical card
- Treatment shouldn’t be limited because a child has private insurance versus medical card.

- More funding to assist those without Medicaid

Grant Writing (5)

- Write more grants to get more services (5)

More Resources/Services [156 across all 9 regions]

General Services (81)

- Local resources/services need to be available to everyone. (48)
- To improve access we need some resources in our rural community. (10)
- Increased Resources- waiting lists are very long, services for families- both child/parents involved in services (4)
- Children need more resources here in our area. Doing treatment for children as well as parents is a big need.
- In SE Kentucky there are very few services/resources and a long wait for treatment.
- We need skilled service providers i.e. substance abuse & domestic violence, – Remove funding from comp cares until they agree to testify in court. They are useless, require comp care to stop utilizing M.H.E.'s
- Develop resources for after 4:30 pm and maybe on weekends.
- Resources need to be located at least within the region and if not the county
- Need more services for DJJ kids
- More resources with fewer obstacles.
- More resources need to be given in hand to those that don't know how to obtain for themselves.
- More avenues for families to access needed services
- Satellite offices throughout counties
- Enhance neighborhood place services- mental health and drugs priority
- More availability of services “court” agencies to provide services
- More of the programs. They are full and overburdened.
- The services there just not enough for the # of people who need
- Needs to be a wider list of resources with state contracts so these clients can afford the resources.
- Online services
- More options given at hearings
- Expand programs that have been effective. Teach legal system that treatment should be provided for families BEFORE removal if there is no imminent danger to child/community.
- Outreach clinics.

Mental Health (36)

“Treatment” Resources (14)

- More treatment resources in each county (8)
- More and better trained agencies such as Mountain Comp Care or treatment facilities (2)
- More treatment options (2)
- More specialized areas for treatment in each county
- Parents need to get treatment for their child without giving up custody to CHFS

Facilities (7)

- More facilities are needed (3)
- We need facilities that will take indigent and state supported children.
- We need a treatment facility for our youth closer to our area.
- More facilities closer to county and more counselors that can see clients at least on a weekly basis.
- There should be facility that are no more than 45 miles from the county seat.

General/Other (15)

- More mental health services (3)
- We have a great need for mental health services for adolescents/juveniles (2)
- more SCL leeway for acceptance of youth with borderline IQ (and above) needs who have legitimate mental health issues
- Increase in inpatient slots/ beds for the inpatient services.
- increased mental health staff placed in schools and not dividing their time with the mental health office
- at least monthly face-to-face therapy sessions, and quarterly psychiatric direct services rather than reliance on practitioners especially for medications;
- Make resources available to all participants i.e. counseling & services marital couple counseling treatments, family counseling, parenting- more in depth
- more choices, perpetrator counseling/ services provided locally
- More counselors for mental health assessments and make available in the schools so parents and transportation issues are not an excuse.
- Consistent services from Comp Care
- There just isn't much available for sex offenders, juvenile; or low income we just need MORE
- More mental health therapists who specialize in sexual abuse , advocates for victims, domestic violence therapist

Substance Abuse (15)

- Urgent need for more substance abuse treatment programs. (8)
- Increase residential substance abuse treatment resources.
- Need increased residential substance abuse treatment services- especially programs that allow women to bring their children with them to treatment. Also need more transitional living programs for mothers in recovery.
- Inpatient substance abuse treatment program. Treatment programs for pregnant women.
- Substance abuse centers, NA/ AA daily meetings
- Drug rehab services (long-term). Substance issues are a majority of case load.
- Legislative mandate needed to provide treatment centers for substance abuse and dual diagnosed juveniles with in each ADD district based on population of juveniles in that area.
- Drug abuse treatment for parents/ teens. Parent Resource Centers

Request for Specific Services (13)

- Family court in all counties. (2)
- Drug court expansion (2)

- Resources for parenting classes. Not only accessibility but actual resources. (2)
- mental health court
- After hour daycare
- availability of short term/emergency child care
- More family team meetings
- Increased role of CASA and child advocacy centers.
- Programs that include the children, child care, parent goes to service, child comes and participates in a children's group and w parent, etc.
- Need to increase day treatment and make detention centers into treatment centers.

In-Home/Prevention/Intensive Services (11)

- Increase preventive in home services (4)
- Increase preventative services (3)
- Intensive case management for more people in need
- Provide more in-home services for families who are at-risk for child maltreatment.
- Expand FPP type in-home services to make them available to DJJ, family court, juvenile court, drug court; FRYSC.
- Community workers to help families that do not meet DCBS criteria.

Transportation [62 across all 9 regions]

- Transportation made available (32)
- Transportation is a big problem in accessing resources. We need ways for families to get to needed resources and treatment. (10)
- Money/resources for transportation (7)
- Public transportation (5)
- At a minimum, immediate assistance with transportation from counties with no or reduced resources (2)
- The current trend seems to be transportation. Clients identify this as a barrier to achieving treatment goals. This may or may not be valid. My reasoning, clients do not seem to have problems with transportation for anything other than complying tasks they negotiated as part of a treatment plan to either: prevent, interrupt, or evade problematic high-risk behaviors that lead to an abuse or neglect situation. I do not mean to make light of clients identified barriers. However, from past field experience, when I have specifically asked clients about this most often they had no response or gave some evasive explanation.
- The county and transportation assistance needs to be made more affordable and more easily accessible. If transportation assistance was more available the needed resources could be made available on the regional level and families would still be able to access them.
- Resources/ services to be mobile or transportation provided for resources/ services
- Better transportation options for those that cannot drive.
- Transportation is a big issue for parents with children in care
- Legislature to provide transportation.
- transportation, Barren Co.

Education/Awareness/Coordination of Available Resources (44 across all 9 regions)

Education/Awareness of Services (22)

- Awareness of services available locally (11).
- Education, training (4)
- Awareness Conference/Fairs (2)
- Regional training provided during training or yearly for workers.
- Communication and education about resources available not misinformation repeated. Utilize access points offered.
- Let people – attorneys – GALs – CASA workers – know what programs are available and a brief description of program
- More info distributed to GALs
- Public awareness/education/required classes similar to classes required when parties divorce.

Resource Directory/Information Source (14)

- Community resource directory with service provider names, contact information, and services provided/description. (9)
- State resources or regional lists accessible on line (2)
- Create registry in DCBS for resources
- I think that distributing standard info to all agencies will aid in improving accessibility of treatment
- mailed awareness of providers in our area

Information for Families about Available Services (5)

- Advertise, make available services known to the families.
- Information on multi level- written, verbal, many potential clients do not know what is available.
- Literature passed along to the community of families in the community making resources known
- Maybe send info home with child from school
- Social workers need this information to pass along to the families and children. Organize this information and simplify it and give it to families and children in writing after social worker goes over the information with them first

Service Coordination (3)

- An ongoing advisory council, someone to communicate services, more TAP assessments, services in appropriate languages
- Information needs to be more accessible in Health Dept., food stamps office, etc. A social worker present in Health Dept. to assist staff and / or assess needs of families.
- Jefferson County has a good number of resources for children in comparison to the remainder of the state- there needs to be a better coordination of their use to reduce out of region placements.

Collaboration/Communication (23 across all 9 regions)

Collaboration (16)

- Collaboration (3)
- Make all agencies involved – multidisciplinary meetings (2)

- To attend meetings given in local areas & participate – at time personally I tend to put them on the back burner.
- Local meetings scheduled quarterly.
- Core Group- mtg. monthly- rep from each partner to develop strategies toward resolutions to issues
- Collaboration- M.O.A.'s
- Align the field-health, police posts-S.S.- all alike common-& same interest
- More cooperation with physicians
- Schools, courts and others help people in community get help.
- Standardized referrals, working relationship with other agencies.
- More on team work, more team structure for each case
- Need to have better referral system
- DCBS or CDW attending 1st meeting or Mental health conferences

Increased General Communication (7)

- More dialogue interagency (All providers)
- Be able to share more information on families involved with.
- Communication and job shadowing
- Central Registries

Increase Staffing/Reduce Caseloads [10 across 6 regions]

- Increase staff
- More trained personnel
- Full staffing.
- More staff at numerous agencies
- Establish coordinator positions
- Increase staff of local resources to in turn increase number of community treated.
- Decrease caseloads for each social worker and encourage more professionals into the field.
- You have got to lower the caseloads of workers. Consideration should be given to the # of children in on one caseload
- Educated professionals with experience not out of college.
- More SSW's

Accountability [9 across 7 regions]

- Increased resources and accountability in contracts to mental health centers to prioritize children's protection or juvenile services. (2)
- Everyone be held accountable
- Increased outcome with accountability
- accountability of provider agencies to provide needed services.
- There needs to be some type of accountability from intake onward. I see many children who fall through the cracks. If you think we have social issues now, just give it a few years.
- Children's voices need to be heard! When a medically neglected child is afraid to tell those in authority that they may need help because they are ignored or when they do speak up and the authority (in this case Bath County DCBS) calls the parent who is responsible for their medical neglect and then holds the child against their will, the system HAS FAILED!

- That cabinet do everything possible to prevent removal
- Juvenile court- structured like any courts with case management structured treatment and accountability

Not an Issue (3 across 2 regions)

- Our region (Cumberland) does not have any issues with this.
- I have no problems with this
- N/A

Other

- Smaller regions- the merge of regions has created a “take over” –there is no uniformed way all the counties can work together
- Everyone should use the GAIN so that we are consistent.
- focus on prevention until familiar
- Identify children earlier who are at risk.
- make more home visits
- KISS
- S.A.B.
- Accurate drug screens- levels rather than + or – due to prescribed medications
- North Key needs to be faster and more accessible (local community mental health)
- Flexibility of services.
- When agencies get grants or develop new programs don’t limit it to one part of the population such as status or DNA.
- Incentives to provide the most needed services
- Viewing limitations so that services could be used for prevention as well as later treatment
- All children who are 5 and older in foster care need to see a therapist, regardless of whether they are acting out in any way.
- More realistic case plans for parents in DNA cases.
- Contact needs to be made first.
- Court ordered involvement for particular community involvement with specific guidelines.
- More defined roles.
- Less political games from Medicaid about hospital length of stay which does not always seem to reflect the needs of the child; NO services denied based on unwritten policies; acceptance of releases for DCBS rather than each mental health requiring their own; consistency of the custody requirement for services to be given; mandatory quarterly blood tests for medication management; access to Medicaid for those who are granted extended commitments form 18-21, etc.
- Assessments are needed but also costly for family

Appendix L: Solution Based Outcome Priorities Identified by Regional Workgroups

UNIQUE APPROACHES TO EFFECTUATE CHANGE

Multi-agency Meetings/Summits [34 groups across all 9 regions]

- Multidisciplinary meetings @ local level between all agencies, including local judges and attorneys (10)
- Regular statewide summit gatherings (7)
- Continue to hold regional meetings/summits to facilitate change (3)
- Summits/workgroups with resources & service providers. (3)
- Quarterly meetings with all agencies and interested parties (Judge, Co. Att. Cabinet, GAL, etc.) (3)
- Local community to implement changes and coordinate changes (2)
- Periodic collaborations between agencies (6 x per years);
- Blue Ribbon Panels
- Creating a regional advisory board process that is multi-agency/disciplinary. It would gather board issues, make recommendations and report progress to statewide body
- Judicial forums in process in Grant County (including Carroll & Owen Cos.)
- Community-based advocacy programs with many people collaborating
- Family court council involving DCBS, CDW, school personnel, GAL and other pertinent individuals to discuss concerns, needed changes, etc
- statewide collaborative meetings to go to Frankfort

Availability of Specific Services [34 groups across all 9 regions]

Prevention [5 groups across 4 regions: C, J, N, NB]

- Increase prevention services & treatment (3)
- Preventative assistance & services including much more funding to biological families to address multiple issues; develop family mentoring to actually “foster the family” not just the child.
- Prevention or the approach to the prevention should be geographically based

Substance Abuse [4 groups across 3 regions: EM, SR, SB]

- Family drug courts; juvenile drug courts (2)
- Substance abuse programs that allow children to remain in home
- Ability to treat pregnant women for substance abuse

Diversion [3 groups across 3 regions: J, NB, SB]

- Diversion programs (2)
- Alternative to detention (safe house – 72 hour holds)

Mediation [3 groups across 3 regions: J, SB, TR]

- Mediation prior to court
- Mediation of Family court cases
- Mediation for dependency and status offenses;

Other [20 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, J, NB, SB, TL, TR]

- CASA program expansion (2)
- Expand the capacity of the extension system to serve the youth & families in every region; fund it through a lottery game called “Child’s Play” to apply to it to child welfare.
- additional resources in rural areas with better coordination of time frames;
- Increase programs like START, PATA, and other in-home services
- Look at having a mental health court
- Neighborhood places
- crisis stabilization
- Family to family & multidisciplinary approach – change needs to occur within all areas
- Family Team meetings
- Volunteers for mentoring for foster kids
- foster care alumni mentors for kids in system;
- Support group for plans “with” people not “for” people (families)
- DCBS court liaison position
- FPP
- Impact
- establish grant for purchase of assessments—no payer source.
- greater availability of services
- in-home based counseling;
- youth compensated with insurance

General Communication and Collaboration Among Agencies [31 groups across all 9 regions]

- This needs to be a collaborative process – all parties who are involved with child, welfare system need to be involved/teamwork (11)
- Better and effective communication between all agencies (9)
- It is critical that agencies serving children/families are aware of one another’s services and how we can work together. (3)
- Open communication between agencies, including school personnel to collect/share data to better serve the families/children;
- More flexibility within each agency’s roles to work together
- More between DJJ & CHFS – expanded toward other agencies
- More networking; information sharing on case management = ALC, DJJ, CFC
- Attorneys, DCBS and CDW, DJJ work effectively together
- Gather community partners input
- Upper management not communicating
- Enhance community cooperation—mandate

Advocacy/Legislation [18 groups across 8 regions: C, EM, J, N, NB, SB, SR, TR]

- Use media to publicize the problems to influence legislation/Massive PR for kids to come 1st in the executive and legislative branches (3)
- Collaboration (including frontline) with legislators (3)
- lobby /legislative changes (2)

- Ensure this information is accurately presented to legislature
- Advocacy & public education through media (2)
- Provide the public financial information on cost of services , i.e. cost to taxpayers)
- Getting community involvement/input and say in services
- Use governor’s office to inform public & advocate for child protection
- until policies and statutes are changed and funds are appropriated, ideas we discuss aren’t going to happen
- Legislative drafting vehicle
- Changing laws relating to statutes that limit how we do business
- More advocating for funding of services that are affordable & accessible
- Continuing health advocacy—for awareness and campaign for change—grass roots effort;

Specific Procedural Change [13 groups across 7 regions: EM, J, NB, SR, SB, TL, TR]

- A thorough evaluation of risk factors and a plan to mitigate the risk factors (comprehensive assessment);
- a social worker assigned to each court;
- law enforcement accept and complete all physical and sexual abuse investigations
- Abbreviated forms designed for each community partner at the time of court proceeding, so the family’s needs can be immediately assessed;
- Counties cooperate and work together to help families when ordered in other counties
- Front load services at reporting stage
- Identify needs of family/child to offer services prior to court or since involved in court family as seen as expert & is a strength
- Assistance to success scheduling appointments at court
- For status offenders – violating court orders don’t pursue contempt charges rather look for placements w/PCC's (rewrite contracts to include/prohibit PCC’s picking/choosing who they accept) – PCC contracts needed to take high risk youth (status offenders)
- Having parent attorneys present at TRH
- Mandatory treatment for children and parents in DNA court (mental health treatment)
- streamline court process (meaning full hearings, not just continuances).
- Families are given a form listing who is involved in working with their case and what their role is.

Funding [13 groups across 6 regions: C, EM, J, NB, SR, SB]

- Allocate additional funding toward child welfare system (4)
- More funding for programs (2)
- more money & programs
- Need funding for children
- Show needs assessment in collaboration with funding
- Provide needed funding for program implementation
- Enforce/fund laws now on books
- Funding rather than unfunded mandates
- Legislative fund treatment for indigent parents

Follow Up on Summit Process [10 groups across 7 regions: EM, J, N, NB, SB, TL, TR]

- Create a taskforce/“watch dog” committee to make recommendations for changes. These people should understand their role and be committed to making change occur. (3)
- Engage key decision/policy makers/elected officials in this summit process (3)
- Follow up on/with information provided through summit (2)
- Change starts at the top – top Cabinet officials, Court Judges, Legislature – take up the cause!!
- By local rule or order, Judges can implement their changes in their county before the law is changed or before agencies implement their changes

Family Court [10 groups across 5 regions: C, EM, J, N, SB]

- all counties should have family court (9)
- All children’s cases should be handled in Family Court (delinquency included)

Cross-Training [7 groups across 5 regions: C, EM, NB, SB, TL]

- cross-disciplinary training—combine trainings (3)
- Training, conferences(2)
- Mock training for all agencies
- mandatory cross-training

Staffing/Caseloads [7 groups across 3 regions: EM, SB, TL]

- Hire more social workers (2)
- Decrease caseworker caseloads or improve caseworker effectiveness (2)
- funding for GAL (2)
- More money for case workers to provide more individualized services for at-risk families prior to removal

Strategies to Promote Information-Sharing [6 groups across 4 regions: E, N, TR, TL]

- confidentiality document to serve all agencies.
- universal computer access – TWIST, CMS, MIS
- online forms; online support system.
- Community education, give resource guides to all community partners
- MOU with all the community partners
- Switching jobs with another profession to better understand each other’s jobs;

Philosophical Approach to Change [6 groups across 3 regions: C, EM, J]

- Be willing to change, share what works and does not work and utilize knowledge review process; think outside the box;
- listening to frontline workers in all areas/regions
- Child bill of rights
- Family Involvement in change – polls, surveys
- Align with other initiatives
- Proactive programs & services

Input from Youth [6 groups across 4 regions: EM, N, SB, TR]

- Listen to children/people who are currently in system or have been in the system (2)
- Ask children in foster care what they need (2)
- include youth in some boards or at least youth input
- Establishment of an on-going advisory foster care panel

Accountability [4 groups across 4 regions: EM, SR, SB, TL]

- Accountability of parents (2)
- Accountability of all parties involved
- Consistency, consequences
- Accountability that services which are offered are actually followed up on (i.e., mental health services)

External Review of Process/Evaluation [3 groups across 3 regions: C, J, SR]

- let outsiders come in and review how the changes/procedures are working.
- have it evaluated by outside agency
- Evaluate the programs we have, focus on the ones that work

Other [11 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, J, SR, SB, TL, TR]

- more training on HIPPA Regulations;
- Adhere to consistent policy & procedures;
- adjust policy to account for rural environment
- treating all people involved in court cases with respect and dignity;
- foster parents need more money to assist in meeting requirements;
- Devise needs assessment
- Comprehensive health care
- Media help with transport
- Integrate people skills to build relationships with children – too much paperwork to have time for relationship with kids
- more training for GALs;
- foster care report to judges

THE BEST APPROACH TO ENSURE CHANGE OCCURS

Interdisciplinary Communication/Collaborative Decision-making [29 groups across 8 regions: C, EM, J, N, NB, SR, SB, TR]

- More opportunities for community collaboration with people who can approve change and be involved. (9)
- improve interdisciplinary communication (8)
- Develop group decisions and all go to Frankfort to be heard.
- More community collaboration to continue monitoring and assessment Community partnerships to know what each agency or community partner can provide to children that have entered the court system;
- Involve participation from judges and attorneys while including input from frontline staff
- Make conversations and meetings meaningful and memorable (schools, courts, social workers, etc.)
- Full participation by the whole community... Legislators, Governor, Judges, County Attorney, etc
- Better communication between agencies – prompt return of phone calls; accessibility of judges, county attorney; social workers role in communication
- Collaborate with other states – continuity
- Elicit buy-in
- Grassroots education of/input from all stakeholders
- Enhanced communication at statewide level;
- give local agencies more authority statewide

Legislation [23 groups across all 9 regions]

- Legislation; utilization of the info from summits to enact needed legislation (13)
- Statutory mandates (3)
- Make certain the ideas make it to the legislature (2)
- Watch the legislative sessions; identification of progress made
- Legislative priority
- Legislation to allocate funds;
- Legislative accountability;
- KY legislation tied to outcomes

Ongoing meetings/summits [21 groups across 8 regions]

- District/localized meetings to facilitate change (8)
- To meet regularly to evaluate progress on the goals/identify common solutions (5)
- Meeting quarterly with attorneys, judge, agencies within region (3)
- Liaison meets with multi-agency groups more, multi-agency trainings/meetings
- Form committees
- Agency “get togethers” within the county to ensure communication and knowledge of services, building relationships, etc.
- Assign tasks at quarterly forums and follow up
- Multi-disciplinary meetings around status offenders (DJJ, CDW, CHFS)
- Call interdisciplinary meeting (judge);

Establish Oversight Body/Coordinator to Follow Up and Track [14 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, J, N, NB, SB, TR]

- name a coordinator to ensure that changes are made and implemented (4)
- Form group/local councils to track progress (3)
- Follow through regional liaison for each region (2)
- Review/audit by outside party/entity
- Having point person from multiple agencies to address & make changes
- Establish multidisciplinary training committee
- Delegate the appropriate governmental agency to follow up and oversee
- Developing a team to meet under MOU to try to prevent problems or address them quickly.

Accountability Mechanisms [11 groups across 6 regions: EM, J, N, NB, SB, TL]

- All participants should be accountable—equal accountability (court, families, cabinet) (3)
- Open court with Judge's option to close when necessary (3)
- Develop awareness within the community regarding the issues that children are facing (3)
- More accountability of GAL's, social Workers format to express good/bad of GAL's, social workers
- Interagency accountability policy with grassroots advocacy
- Checks and balances (example, IRP boards, CSFRs, FCRBs)

Funding [10 groups across 7 regions: EM, J, N, NB, SB, TL]

- Increased funding (8)
- Funds allotted to services for support/prevention instead of punitive measures
- more funding or reallocation of resources

Set goals/timeline for implementation [9 groups across 6 regions: C, EM, J, NB, SB, TL]

- Specific goals to achieve/timeframes/follow-up (5)
- Follow up. Don't go home and forget about what we talked about (2)
- Implement changes
- Implement the ideas discussed; make sure the summit communication does not end at the summit

Advocacy [8 groups across 6 regions: N, NB, SR, SB, TL,TR]

- Advocate for the importance of the change (3)
- Public education, town meetings (2)
- Ensure recommendations get into right hands
- use of lobby activities
- Brief report from summit be distributed to all participants

Upper Leadership to Facilitate Change [8 groups across 5 regions: J, NB, SR, SB, TR]

- Executive leadership consistency/continuity (2)
- Leadership of Chief Justice, Governor, Legislature, Cabinet Secretary – need buy-in (2)
- Enlist governor's office
- “heavy hand” – like Chief Justice Lambert - - continual emphasis

- It has to come from the top down; and not be chained to “numbers – outcome”.
- Involve the judicial staff for changes;

Pilot programs/Evaluate effectiveness of change [6 groups across 5 regions: C, EM, J, SR, TL]

- developing pilot programs to determine viability of statewide implementation and cost effectiveness of prevention.
- open dialogue to discuss effectiveness of changes
- Outcomes based contracting
- Data aimed at measuring outcomes
- Regular statistical analysis
- Maybe do 6 month pilot project to measure outcome instead of just research

Increase Number of Staff/Reduce Caseload [5 groups across 3 regions: J, SB, TL]

- Increasing the number of frontline workers (5)
- limit caseload

Other [31]

- Some cabinet policy changes
- Policy change & consistency within agencies.
- Online resource directory – updated by each agency
- AOC to hire regional grant writers to access funding for programs
- Use testimony from parents/children who are recipients; we all need to understand the problem before coming up with a solution;
- CEUs for attorneys and mandated ethics – pieces of this could be at their BAR convention
- Cooperation between district and family court
- cross-training
- Develop code system to be able to share information between departments
- Have questions/problems available beforehand
- Frankfort enforcing contracts
- demand records of how money is used – enlist media for this
- Change the way workers are paid, re: more money for workers actually doing the work, less for “supervisors” (too many supervisors in system)
- Education system being more involved in court involved families
- CQI process
- Case level Family team meeting process
- Website for community services providers
- Exit interviews/process for foster children
- follow up with clients
- Convincing the new administration that money would make more impact early in the cases
- Foster parents/foster children support group
- School programs educating about domestic violence, health
- Find more detention alternatives
- Ordered instant forwarding of pertinent documents from social workers to GAL & court

staff (open disclosure)

- Use of educational neglect petitions
- Supervisors first then workers; combined training on local level
- services
- workers meet more often with children,
- Training; extension—homemakers as mentoring mothers, especially for teen mothers
- support groups; transportation; develop problem-solving skills; child care
- universal statement for information;

TOP PRIORITIES FOR REVISION OF COURT PROCEDURES

Require attorneys to perform certain activities [35 groups across 8 regions: C, EM, N, NB, SR, SB, TL, TR]

- require attorney to meet child prior to court date.
- GAL needs to prepare their own reports for the court;
- spend a set amount of time with child (client).
- GAL written report to court documenting meeting with child, caregivers, etc.
- GAL has to meet with child prior to court
- GALs meet with children
- make GALs show proof that they have interviewed the child
- GALs need to meet with children before court date
- incorporate GAL services with their clients
- mandated face-to-face contact between GAL and child, at least prior to adjudication hearing and at least quarterly thereafter
- GAL/lawyer meets child/family prior to court proceedings
- GAL mandatory timeframe to see children & attaching payment to
- All parties should be required to be prepared for court & not being prepared is not excuse for requesting a review
- expectations – to meet their clients & interview them prior to court date
- Guardian ad litem should meet with the child prior to the court date.
- GAL follow children
- Effective GAL representation
- All GALs make and keep contact with the children they are representing
- Require attorneys and GALs to meet with clients before court and periodically
- JV's meeting with GAL and public defenders before day of court
- consistent standards for GAL and parents attorney, with all courts
- adequate representation and accountability for GAL and parents' attorney
- better GAL representation
- consistent standards for GAL and parents attorney, with all courts
- GAL and PD meet with child prior to court
- continuity of social worker/GAL/judge, county attorney
- GAL for children need to be more informed and active for child
- mandatory GAL meetings
- attorneys not being prepared and caught up on cases
- consistency – one attorney to manage cases from removal – TPR/adoption
- meet public defender prior to court date
- more preparation on public defenders' behalf
- attorneys need to meet clients prior to court.
- Camp. County Attorney – needs to be present & active.
- More active county attorney in Campbell

Revise Docketing Procedures [31 groups across 8 regions: C, EM, J, N, NB, SR, SB, TR]

- Scheduled staggered court time appearances,
- expediting the docket, want time reduced
- specific dockets
- automatic docketing of cases
- create a court calendar that allows workers to have a specific time for court appearances
- cut down on time worker spends in court by putting each worker cases together
- Time certain dockets, more judges, docket organization
- dockets (overcrowding)
- Docket control to make sure families aren't waiting 8 hours
- time certain dockets
- Time waiting, docket issue
- Work toward time certain calendaring and control of court docket
- Docket control (streamline for effectiveness and timeliness)
- docket management
- More efficient docket systems
- special court hearings at specific times – 9am docket; 10am docket, etc.
- Change court docketing procedure
- Time management of scheduling of cases/docket management
- Better organized dockets (case type, time specific)
- More realistic docket times so parents & workers don't spend all day in court
- Timeliness – docket management
- Time management of scheduling of cases/docket management
- Docket scheduling – coordinating based on type of hearings block scheduling to limit amount of time in courts (priority of court not based on having representation)
- Managing docket control
- Docket organization
- Docket organization (DNA, Motion Hour, etc.)
- Follow docket
- Shorten dockets
- more judges for smaller dockets and restructuring dockets for an on-call basis
- reduce and better organize court docket
- appointments for court, court all day long; social workers, DJJ and etc; clients lose jobs due to missing for court

Reduce Continuances [30 groups across 8 regions: C, EM, N, NB, SR, SB, TL, TR]

- Limit number of continuances in a case
- Fewer continuances
- limited continuances of cases
- fewer continuances
- fewer continuances
- limit number of reviews/continuances
- few continuances – actually meet time frame regarding permanency
- timeliness of hearings (quicker case turnaround)
- minimize court continuances

- less continuances
- limit continuances
- continuances
- Limit continuance
- Constant continuances
- Reduce court delays
- Kids need to get in court faster – more court dates
- Mandate a rule regarding continuances
- Reduce continuances
- Continuing cases on and on and on
- Limit continuances
- Avoiding continuances, better communication about them, need for advance approval (?)
- decrease continuances;
- not continuing status or DNA cases
- follow through with court cases such as when parent doesn't show and was noticed; cut down on continuances as it prolongs permanency for children
- fewer continuances;
- reduce continuances for more expedient case disposition
- reduce continuances
- continuances
- continuous, constant re-sets
- reduction of continuancy

Earlier/Longer/More Consistent Appointment of Attorneys [23 groups across 5 regions: C, J, SB, TL, TR]

- Attorney to be appointed for everyone at the filing of a petition
- Timely appointment of GAL
- Early & consistent appointment of counsel for all parties & children.
- Automated appointment of attorneys for parents prior to court
- All children to be appointed a GAL at the beginning of court proceedings
- children need their own legal representation.
- Parent's attorneys get paid for appeals – not pro bono
- Legal representation for parents from TRH to appeal
- appointment of counsel for terminations
- Parent & GAL representation for appeals of TPR's
- funding all the way through process for GAL's appt counsel through appellate process
- appointment of attorneys for parents at TRH
- appointing GAL's and attorneys before temporary removal hearing
- When appt.'s of lawyers occur, before TRH
- Legal representation for parents prior to removal
- Having GAL's & Court appointed attorneys appointed prior to temp. removal hearing.
- DPA follow case through entire court procedures
- active GALs provided for parents and children at temporary removal hearings and thereafter.
- attorneys need to be appointed at filing of petition

- appoint counsel for parents at onset of case
- Appoint attorney prior to temporary removal hearing
- representation for parent at removal hearing
- change statute to allow earlier appointment of GAL for child

Statewide Implementation of Family Court [21 groups across 6 regions: C, EM, N, SB, TL, TR]

- Family court
- family court for all counties
- Implement family court over entire state.
- Family court
- family court in all counties
- family court in all counties with a court social worker
- want family court in all counties
- Family Court (more in Supreme Court System as well as additional Family Court Judges)
- create family court judgeship for Knott/Magoffin
- establish family court
- family court
- Family Court for each county
- Family Court Orientation
- family court in every county
- family court in all counties
- more family court
- family courts in every jurisdiction
- family court
- create family court.
- more family matters in family court
- implementation of family court

Improve Timeliness to Permanency/Follow Statutory Timeframes [17 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, N, NB, SB, TL, TR]

- Timely adjudications – more court dates.
- complying with statutory time frames
- quicker transition to permanency if parents refuse to cooperate
- more understanding of time frames
- timeliness
- Timely tracking of timelines and permanency
- Timeframes for termination (of parental rights) cases to move quicker
- Timelines
- Move cases more efficiently
- Get clients in court quicker – expeditiously
- Expedite adoptions after TPR has occurred
- Court needs to monitor filing of TPR paperwork after goal changed
- abide by state and federally mandated timelines for moving cases along

- adjudications and dispositions in timely fashion; getting things resolved;
- define expedited in terms of time frames
- timely dispositions
- speed up TPR

Improved Communication with Parties Regarding Orders/Provide Written Orders to Parties Before Leave Court [13 groups across 8 regions: EM, J, N, NB, SR, SB, TL, TR]

- parents need to be fully informed of meanings of court findings;
- increase use of technology court orders to be given to family and other parties before leaving court.
- written orders for parties when they leave
- More communications with parties about what they need to do
- guidelines for clerks to inform litigants following meetings
- distribution of written orders to all parties
- actually get court orders in a timely (days)
- getting court orders to people
- judges making more specific findings & consistent findings
- Provide families and service providers with copies of court orders the day of court before family leave courthouse
- Each party upon leaving court receives a signed dated copy of the judge's orders
- have court orders in hand when they leave court
- families more educated about court proceedings

Pre-court Mediation/Pre-hearing Conferencing [11 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, N, NB, SR, SB, TR]

- Mediation
- Meet prior to court to discuss case & come to an agreement
- consultation meetings between county attorney and workers prior to hearing
- Everyone included in pre-conference
- alternative resolutions such as mediation
- More pre-court mediation
- Pre-court staffing/interviews/role descriptions
- More mediation programs
- conference cases
- County Attorney to meet with int. parties before Ct. to try and resolve case
- implementation of mediation in DNA cases

Uniform Court Practice/Consistency Across State [8 groups across 5 regions: C, EM, J, N, NB]

- more consistency across the state.
- Making courts more consistent across the state.
- uniformity of court systems
- consistency regarding interpretation of statutes

- Judicial consistency, especially for juvenile Judges
- Consistency – in interpreting statutes
- Consistent throughout the state
- court not following statute

Increase Availability of Drug Court [8 groups across 6 regions: C, EM, N, SR, SB, TL]

- Drug court for both juveniles and families
- creation of family drug court programs (funding sources)
- drug court
- Family drug court
- Family drug court
- drug courts
- Drug Court for each county
- expanded drug court

Focus on Safety of Child/Permanency/Best Interest [6 groups across 3 regions: C, J, TR]

- Safety of the child & permanency.
- safety of child including best interest
- correct “problem” - permanency
- child’s well being
- safety and well-being of children
- alternative solutions; child’s best interests, not the courts

Change Number of Court Reviews [5 groups across 4 regions: N, NB, SR, TR]

- Less unnecessary reviews, follow statutory review process (2)
- more frequent DNA reviews (2)
- Consistency in scheduling reviews

Create Court Staff/Parent Advocate to explain Court Process to Family/Child [5 groups across 3 regions: NB, SB, SR]

- Having an appointed person to talk to kids before & after court to prepare them/debrief them on legal issues
- Education on court processes for families involved in juvenile cases
- Someone to explain court process to child and parent – parent advocate
- Court liaison
- Court liaison to work with parents to assist them in understanding court process

Restrict Use of Dependency Finding to Those Meeting Definition [4 groups across 3 regions: C, SB, TR]

- Define and understanding of dependency “between” court system and DCBS
- Define the true definition of dependency – dependency would only be used on true dependent cases.
- Unless it is a true dependency – don’t agree to stipulate to dependency
- do not amend neglect to dependency—look at the use of dependency—must meet definition

One Judge/One Case [4 groups across 3 regions: C, EM, TR]

- case continuity – one judge follows case through entirely (4)

Increase Use/Availability of Diversion Programs [3 groups across 3 regions: C, NB, SB]

- Diversion programs available in all counties
- alternatives to detention
- Diversion to service provider assessment of overall needs before court process starts

Other [80 groups across 9 regions]

- Court address issue of working parents missing court & interfering w/their employment
- Case management of all court
- Clarity of adjudications and dispositions
- Foster parent input regarding status of child
- return home orders from Judges.
- More detailed and fully developed form regarding removal prior to removal that all reasonably efforts have been made instead of check box form.
- Court clerks to notify everybody involved of information, i.e. dockets, court orders (including schools)
- More agency collaboration at the beginning of the court process.
- Set protocol for removal rather than OOHC other than in most severe cases –
- Researching “best practices’ court systems (see what other states are using)
- mandatory CASA for each child
- use least restrictive approaches/ use fewer contingencies
- involvement with doctors and QMHPs in court proceedings
- mandate parents of drug-addicted infants into treatment facilities where they can take their children
- eliminate backroom bargaining
- judges interviewing/assessing child before court proceeding
- court monitor
- status offenders not placed in cabinet custody
- Judges need all info on youth from CDW, DJJ, etc.
- Communication of what has occurred prior to court
- Concurrent court for status/delinquent/DNA docket
- Emancipation process for unwed mother’s best interest standards
- Motions made electronically, clerk to give out dates, cut down on unnecessary court appearances;
- written reports for Disbo 3 days in advance of hearing by statute
- Do better job of working with juvenile sex offenders
- Child care during court expanded
- Longer term for Juvenile Court Judges – no consistency from term to term
- Judges need technological/computer access to records statewide – Cabinet (Crystal forms need to be developed)
- Need more conference rooms – blue prints are drawn up but no \$\$
- Cases being dismissed

- Interested parties not present
- Uniform purpose for all involved parties
- SW's giving thorough and timely court reports
- states to have access to information regarding families – history (state-to-state) (criminal & CPS) safety issues
- initial petition
- More respect from judges – equally respect all disciplines, parents, families
- all judges and county attorneys should be educated to DCBS procedures and come to functions such as this summit so we can better meet the safety, permanency and well-being of our families
- include all interested parties in court proceeding, i.e. foster parent, treatment specialist
- Regular meetings with child in care, court staff, GAL and case worker, etc.
- Dispositions – public, status, or /and DNA cases;
- More formal process in place for court arraignment & disposition
- Having more than one public defender/GALS assigned to child to spend time before court to advocate before a ruling
- Give child/parent option to present info to court – letter or speaking in court
- Address interstate problems; speed up record retrieval & interstate home evaluations
- CFCRB volunteers can request files without previous notice
- Courts need to do legal process; let social workers do social work
- Making judges discretion to transfer juveniles use standard
- All CDW worker's role to more supportive services rather than clerical
- More judicial accountability
- Give foster children the option to sit in court on their own cases
- Share docket with all interested community partners
- Truancy court
- Be on time
- Review laws and changes in laymen terms
- continuity and fairness
- Management of adjudication/pleading process
- take care not to disparage a worker in front of families;
- recognize CHFS limitations
- Hear custody battle cases separate from DNA docket
- Guardianship a part of family court
- Therapy courts;
- Mental health courts
- Mandate parenting skills training for first offenders
- In cases where DV is determined: Not charge the non-offending client with neglect.
- making courts more “family friendly”
- court order production of info b/w social worker, court and lawyers
- Require direct reports from service providers – not just social worker's summation of it.
- Require parents to be made parties of juvenile court action and be served with process, if possible
- appoint a team to a judge (Fayette)

- collaboration between agencies, court staff and cabinet staff—judge to take the lead
- collaboration between agencies, court staff and cabinet staff—judge to take the lead
- include child in decision process
- clear definition of whose responsibility it is to notify all interested persons, including attorneys
- change visitation policy from denial of visitation for a dirty drug screen to denial of visitation while high or allow supervised visit.
- more show causes—hold caseworkers and parents accountable
- more user-friendly reports
- written motions for all DNA reviews
- form for informal adjustments
- parent accountability
- judges follow through with holding in contempt
- collaboration of activity to all parties involved
- each agency to be represented

TOP PRIORITIES FOR LEGISLATION

Funding for Staffing/Caseloads [38 groups across 8 regions C, EM, J, N, NB, SR, SB, TR]

- Funding additional frontline staff (12)
- lower/uphold real caseload restrictions for DCBS (11)
- level of pay that attracts & keeps qualified staff (6)
- Establish added family/district court judges (5)
- uphold the 5% cost of living raises to reduce turnover (2)
- Pay equity
- weighted case loads for protection and permanency
- Regulation requiring caseload limits for P.D.'s/GAL's/county attorneys and continuity;
- No comp. time.
- Consider refunding tuition after 2 years work as social workers.
- Incentives to maintain front line staff

Funding Overall System [26 groups across all 9 regions]

- Increase funding for courts, DCBS, DJJ, service provider agencies. (23)
- Adequate funding for laws already on books
- Changes in restrictions on funding to increase funds & solve problems
- Reallocate funds to more support services

Funding For Specific Services [22 groups across all 9 regions]

- payment for substance abuse testing and treatment for adults, and adolescents (5)
- Allocation of \$ for prevention (4)
- better per diem for foster care (2)
- State funding for CASA (2)
- More money for mental health treatment, appropriate assessment of children and adults (4)
- more monies for Family Preservation Program and other programs due to long waiting list for services provided
- Transportation paid for through tax money
- More funding for drug court and other services
- Increase funding for education, alternative education & vocational options
- funding for legal services

Increase Guardian Ad Litem/Court Appointed Counsel Fees [22 groups across 6 regions: C, J, NB, SB, TL, TR]

- increase payment for parent's attorneys and guardians ad litem (16)
- Higher fees for GAL's (3)
- Equalize payments to GALs and attorneys between family & district court.
- Make DPAs available for parents in DNA cases to provide continuity and support to parents across court system
- Increase fees for attorneys for fair & consistent representation

Revise Statutory Definitions/Procedures: Other [12 groups across 5 regions: J, EM, NB, SB, TR]

- Rewrite/revise definitions for KRS 600's specifically dependency, neglect and abuse to be more specific (2)
- Changing definition of neglect (in statute) to be broadened (2)
- Limit CHFS/DCBS involvement to familial abuse/neglect investigations.(2)
- Ed neglect should be stand alone neglect without referencing other neglect
- clarification of reasonable efforts
- Clear definition of family versus criminal issues – what court has jurisdiction
- Lower the threshold of sexual abuse criteria
- Define, more specifically, the Safe Haven policy/law
- unlawful transaction with a minor would exclude educational neglect

Transparency of the Court System: Open Court [12 groups across 4 regions: J, NB, SB, TR]

- Open courts/transparency (5)
- Open courts but leaving files closed
- increase in transparency
- open hearing with judicial discretion to close but continue closed files/records (no press)
- Open court proceedings unless reason to close such as protection
- Begin the process to open proceedings in court to help raise awareness within the community and confidence in work being done
- Open courts with limitations and restrictions with limits on to not be able to publish child's name or picture
- open court – conditions discretion

Amend Status Offense Statutes [10 groups across 6 regions: EM, J, NB, SB, TL, TR]

- Amend status offense statutes (5)
- juvenile case to remain jurisdiction of one judge, regardless of public or status offense (one judge – one case) (3)
- eliminate status offenses from statute (2)
- status cases in family not juvenile court

Revise Kinship Care Regulations [9 groups across 5 regions: C, N, SB, TL, TR]

- Broaden kinship care guidelines to consider bonding/attachment with a non-relative, to follow the child in 2nd placement, for children in care due to dependency as well as abuse, and/or for status offenses. (4)
- Pay kinship care at the level of foster care (2)
- Expand the length of time within which relatives can accept a child (i.e. after 60 days) to still qualify for kinship care (2)
- pay daycare for kids in relative placement
- allocate money for relatives to care for children that do not meet kinship care requirements
- statutory prohibition against allowing relative custodian to return the child to parents after the relative gets custody

Tighten Home Schooling Requirements [8 groups across 6 regions: EM, J, N, NB, SR, SB]

- strengthen requirements for home schooling (6)
- Have oversight/accountability regarding home schooling (2)

Amend Timelines: Increase Speed to Permanency [8 groups across 4 regions: EM, NB, TL, TR]

- permanency for child (TPR, Permanent custody, etc.) at 6 months if no progress by parents, instead of 15 months
- mandatory goal changed to adoption after one year in foster care
- ASFA to be evaluated
- Changing language for voluntary TPR expedition
- change the 15 of 22 months to 9 of 18 months
- look at 15 out of 22 month policy;
- allow TPR to proceed more quickly if parents are doing nothing on case plan
- permanency custody needs to be established at 12 months

Transparency of the Court System: Keep Court Closed [8 groups across 4 regions: EM, C, SB, TL]

- juvenile proceedings stay closed (5)
- Maintain confidentiality of juvenile in court proceedings (2)
- Maintain confidentiality of juvenile issues

Enforce Parental Accountability [8 groups across 4 regions: C, EM, J, SB]

- hold parents accountable (4)
- Changes and stricter penalties for abuse and neglect perpetrators (3)
- Parents are held accountable for status offender charges; made to attend counseling, learn parenting skills, etc.

Improve Educational Requirements [8 groups across 4 regions: J, N, NB, SR]

- Raise drop out age to 18 (3)
- state education /requirements credits be same everywhere (2)
- Juveniles to be required to attend school in detention when over 16
- Strengthen requirement for schools to serve committed children or special needs kids
- classifying special education laws

Increase Legislative Advocacy/Involvement of Legislators in System Improvement [7 groups across 5 regions: C, EM, J, N, SB]

- Super lobbyists/groups representing the needs of children/families across disciplines – child & family, consensus building, advocacy not discipline or profession
- Encourage summit meetings annually to do more of today – get legislators here.
- more understanding of geography, allocation of resources in rural areas and frontline work by legislators
- legislator involvement
- Lobby
- Our agency (Cabinet) needs to become a priority
- Legislatures should be included in these summits – need to be more involved in their communities

Set Guardian Ad Litem/Court Appointed Counsel Standards/Accountability (7 groups across 4 regions: C, SB, TL, TR)

- Statute requiring GAL to meet face to face with child and family (3)
- statute requiring GAL to produce a written report (2)
- setting maximum standards for GAL and enforce them (3)
- Mandate training for court appointed counsel

Revise Statutory Definitions/Procedures: Emotional Abuse [6 groups across 5 regions: EM, NB, SR, SB, TR]

- emotional abuse redefined/Omit qualifications/broaden (6)

Facilitate Information-sharing Across Agencies [6 groups across 4 regions: N, SR, TL, TR]

- states to have access to information regarding families – history (state-to-state) (criminal & CPS) safety issues
- Information systems need to be integrated, open communication between agencies
- Records being transferred
- resolve language disputes between statutes that hinder collaboration
- DJJ, ALC, CFC secure information sharing between parties involved in order to make adequate decision
- require DCBS to report back to “agency-referral” source to keep communication open to help family;

Require Consistency between Policy/Practice and Law [6 groups across 3 regions: EM, SR, TL]

- KRS to match Cabinet Standards of Practice (5)
- combine state, federal, and DCBS policy language

Revise Statutory Definitions/Procedures: Dependency [5 groups across 3 regions: NB, SR, SB]

- narrow/clarify dependency definition (5)

Availability of Services for Foster Youth/Young Adults: Enhance Health Insurance [5 groups across 3 regions: N, SB, TR]

- Improve insurance for foster care kids if in extended commitment (3)
- Provide for minor healthcare for former foster youth – those without it that don’t necessarily need commitment (2)

Eliminate or Change Beyond Control Statute [4 groups across 3 regions: NB, TL, TR]

- get rid of beyond control or reevaluate (2)
- Require services/meeting prior to beyond control charges being filed
- BC/parent charge is filed, mandatory parenting class

Revise sanction/Diversion Process for Juvenile Offenders [3 groups across 3 regions: EM, TL, TR]

- 3rd diversion attempt

- mandated family therapy for 12 months as alternative to diversion/prosecution
- graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders

Availability of Services for Foster Youth/Young Adults: Extending Commitment [3 groups across 3 regions: J, N, TL]

- extend the timeframe for former foster youth to come back and extend commitment after aging out (2)
- extend age of commitment for education to 25

Amend Timelines: Other [3 groups across 3 regions: J, SR, TR]

- adjustment of timeframes for 115's
- Statutes to reduce timeframe for CHFS response to report
- change time on detention hearings—48 status, 72 public

Require Consistency in Procedures /Interpretation of Statutes [3 groups across 2 regions: NB, TL]

- Consistency of court systems/state: i.e. all judges abide by same procedures/statutes
- Judges having set standard guidelines
- specific regulations to prevent such open interpretation of the law

Other [40 groups across 8 regions]

- statute needs to require counsel for parents
- More specific guidance for juvenile dispositions
- Better guidelines for case investigations to be more child focused.
- Fines & court costs for juvenile related cases in court & drug testing for all parties if warranted.
- Employers cannot fire parents for attending court
- law enforcement mandated to serve all court documents in timely manner
- more law enforcement protection of social workers
- law enforcement will accept and investigate all reports of physical and sexual abuse
- create legislation that would not allow parents to be given back custody but through family court case where permanency was established
- more legislation regarding in vitro drug use, prenatal care and services for the born children and criminal charges for parents
- Child's bill of rights
- Clarify attorney roles and all parties are represented, including Cabinet
- Do better job of protecting children who have mental/physical handicaps
- Mandate services for children found "incompetent"
- by statute ID father in dependency cases
- Dep. Dockets to include putative fathers
- Co. attorneys represent CHFS
- Children's Rights if parent cannot be located – TPR (i.e. child's death in Connecticut)
- Sex offenders committed to 21; either transfer to adult or juvenile
- Broaden permanency guidelines (ASFA) to include any caregiver
- Daytime curfew for school aged children

- DJJ keeping children beyond 18 – children’s decision making 16 y/o & over
- develop a child abuse registry (like sex offenders)
- Do not prosecute minors as adults
- Repeal the mandatory APS reporting. Unless a child is injured during an APS incident, the report should not automatically be sent to CPS
- Protective orders for dating violence adults and teens
- Require parents to be made parties of juvenile court action and be served with process, if possible –
- Review juvenile sex offender laws
- Children in OOHC stay in same school despite move out of district, if feasible
- Revise truancy statute back to 9 absences
- Putative Father Statute should incorporate DNA. Does it trump “legal” dad?
- expedited appellate process
- resolve dispute between emergency custody order statute and jurisdiction statute, 620 vs. 610
- competency to stand trial procedure for juveniles (similar to KRS 504) (2)
- revise KRS so that jurisdiction is more flexible when petitioning for children. For example, a child is born in Calloway, parents live in Marshall and child is transported to Kosairs (Jefferson Co.). Marshall will have to go to Jefferson to file petition. All court matters and FCRB is reviewed in Jefferson; FCRB cases need to be reviewed in county where case is and not court jurisdiction. Too much money being spent on transporting files when the form can just be mailed to the court for \$.41 stamp.
- judge should have authority to order a placement change
- change sign-out age for mental health from 16 to 18
- minimum age for public offenses
- any worker/service provider employed by the state must be licensed in their appropriate area

SERVICE PRIORITIES

Substance Abuse Programs [47 groups across all 9 regions]

Treatment [38 groups across all 9 regions]

- More drug/alcohol treatment services on local county level (22)
- Juvenile/children's substance abuse facility (3)
- Increased substance abuse treatment facilities for women & girls and women & children (2)
- In-patient treatment facility for drug/alcohol treatment that will take referrals from people without insurance or a medical card (2)
- Substance abuse prevention & treatment with family oriented facilities.
- drug abuse services for children – desperate needs – vouchers for this.
- increase variety of drug services – DARE
- IOP for adults (substance abuse)
- Alcohol services – more funding, treatment
- Substance abuse treatment for juveniles and adults
- More substance abuse options. If court recommends it then the court should pay for it
- More/quicker entry into substance abuse treatment
- youth recovery center: AA/NA (substance abuse)

Screening/Testing [9 groups across 6 regions: C, EM, N, NB, SB, TR]

- affordable/available drug testing (8)
- social workers trained to perform drug screenings

Mental Health Services [35 groups across all 9 regions]

General [26 groups across all 9 regions]

- Need mental health services (13)
- Qualified appropriate counseling (3)
- More qualified mental health providers – especially for children (2)
- Mental health treatment for juveniles and adults (2)
- mental health services to be more accessible to adults/kids (not based on income & transportation/child care provided) (2)
- Increase immediate accessibility to mental health
- Barriers to mental health services in rural counties – timeliness of response – waiting list – availability.
- Outcome driven/specific counseling services for families & children
- Mandatory MH treatment within a week of being removed

Psychiatric Facilities [5 groups across 4 regions: C, NB, SB, TL]

- Psychiatric facility for juveniles (2)
- Immediate accessibility of crisis stabilization (2)

Inpatient mental health treatment facility that will take people without insurance/medical card

Specialized [4 groups across 4 regions: J, NB, SB, TR]

- Treatment for MR/MI (dual diagnosis cases)

- Expanding KEYS/ in-school therapy services
- When a removal is determined, have a mental health specialist accompany police and CPS to work with parent
- psych. evaluations, medication
-

Services for Juvenile/Status Offenders [22 groups across 8 regions: C, J, N, NB, SR, SB, TL,TR]

- Respite/shelter placements for status kids that require structure due to runaway risk (5)
- Clearing house for service coordination for community service work so that youth can serve community (3)
- Transition services for children returning to community after long term placement especially school(2)
- Targeted resources/staff to look for AWOL children (2)
- unified agency to monitor community service, and ankle monitors
- truancy diversion
- More services for youth classified as “incompetent”
- \$ more status resources
- alternatives to detention
- More mentoring to parents/programs for families with “at-risk” youth
- DJJ allowing service providers to provide services while on detention & family meetings
- Juvenile services getting in schools to work on prevention to prevent further court involvement
- More diversion programs for teens or status offenders
- truancy related services
- Christian Co. Detention Center

Independent Living Programs for Youth [20 groups across 6 regions: C, EM, N, NB, SB, TR]
General [8 groups across 4 regions: C, NB, SB, TR]

- Intensive independent living programs; intensive case management & follow up (4)
- More services for children 18-21 including APS for non-SSI persons – preparing them for adulthood
- Mandate independent living skills at earlier stages of development
- continued support system for children in independent living skills during college, after college, aging out of the system, and for single parent families
- awareness of recommitment to cabinet;

Educational [5 groups across 3 regions: N, SB, TR]

- vocational and independent living schools (3)
- expanded services for life skills
- really need independent living classes (in high school be non-stigma environment)

Mentoring For Youth [5 groups across 4 regions: C, EM, N, SB]

- mentoring programs for youth (4)
- Establish state system for volunteer mentoring after aging out

Support [3 groups across 2 regions: SB, TR]

- Extend window of support for aging out teens for support and guidance. mental health
- Establish a foster child support group
- Support groups for Former foster & Adoptive Kids

Transportation [19 groups across 6 regions: C, EM, N, NB, SB, TR]

- Public and/or private transportation to utilize services (14)
- Rural transit available for parents (3)
- Transportation for public to eliminate excuses from families
- Provide transportation services to therapy, etc. & to keep child in same school district.

Increase in General Services [17 groups across 8 regions: C, EM, J, NB, SR, SB, TL, TR]

- greater availability for all services, especially in rural areas (7)
- More case management services (3)
- Needed services in the county, i.e. specialized.
- more treatment services that are consistent
- more evidence-based treatment
- More funding to wrap-around services to prevent court cases/cabinet cases
- More providers/longer term services
- family mentoring programs to help nurture the parents and kids
- upon reunification, offer the family the same supportive services that foster families get when they first take in a child

Services for Foster Parents [17 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, J, NB, SB, TL, TR]

Review/Oversight [7 groups across 4 regions: C, J, SB, TR]

- Continuing investigation of OOHC homes; independent of foster care unit (2)
- Increase standards and accountability for foster parents (2)
- Stricter guidelines for foster/adoptive parents
- Drug testing of placements (foster parents, relatives) for OOHC kids, as condition of placement
- 3rd party annual review of foster homes

General [6 groups across 4 regions: C, NB, SB, TL]

- More training for foster parents (on trauma, attachment, working with parents, managing behaviors in mal treated children) (2)
- Increase services for foster care providers (2)
- Support Groups for Foster Parents
- more emergency respite for foster/adoptive parents
- increase in funding for foster care payments

Recruitment [4 groups across 3 regions: EM, J, TL]

- Diligent recruitment efforts for foster/adoptive parents (3)
- more qualified, certified foster homes to include foster homes for special needs children

Prevention [16 groups across 6 regions: C, SM, J, N, SB, TL]

- More preventative services – money at the start rather than foster care (8)
- early assessment/front loading/early intervention (5)
- In-home preventative services
- prevention programs in school with connection with DJJ, CDW, etc – community attachment
- prevention services for drug & alcohol

Education Programs [13 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, J, N, NB, SB, TR]

General [7 groups across 5 regions J, NE, NB, SB, TR]

- specialized tutoring (2)
- develop educational opportunity
- Educational outreach to local communities
- Realistic education plans/supports for children
- More consistent educational system
- increase number of educational services available and access to them

Topic-Specific [6 groups across 4 regions: C, EM, NB, SB]

- training & education in middle & high schools for domestic violence (girls thinking its ok);
- education/prevention back in schools based on peer report and having visual experiences
- life skills and parenting instruction in high school
- Provide vocational component to education for those struggling in traditional schooling – still obtaining HS diploma while learning vocations
- Law related education in the school systems to educate children in general
- Education for victims of DV about the consequences of DV on children

Family Preservation/In Home Services [13 groups across 6 regions: C, J, N, NB, TL, TR]

- More in-home services (4)
- Expansion of Family Preservation services – longer term, more training and better communication between FPP and workers (4)
- Long-term in-home services (2)
- More support services to provide families w/models of behavior “fostering the entire family” not just the child.
- Immediate accessibility to in-home services
- funding extended FPP services across child welfare spectrum (DJJ, CDW, mental health)

Interagency Collaboration/Better Communication [12 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, J, N, SR, SB, TL]

- Improved community collaboration among professional agencies (5)
- Team approach to what’s best for the child/collaboration for wrap around services; all agencies meeting 1x per month to discuss (2)
- AOC sponsored summits.

- DCBS & DJJ don't talk – this needs to change
- Family court & District Court Judge don't talk – this needs to change
- Integration of policy re: various agencies/services
- better coordination of information between referral source and service provider

Kinship Care Programs [11 groups across 7 regions: C, EM, J, NB, SR, SB, TR]

- Expand kinship care beyond relatives (3)
- better implementation of kinship care procedures allow daycare funding to kinship care homes (2)
- \$ for kinship care families regarding training;
- kinship care for dependent children.
- FPP type service for relative placements
- Increase services for kinship
- funding available for kinship care recipients to hire legal counsel to obtain legal custody
- continuity of care—family members not always appropriate, kinship care not always advertised. Kinship care has to be involuntarily placed. Voluntary placements should be paid for.

Targeted/Comprehensive Assessment [8 groups across 6 regions: EM, J, SR, SB, TL, TR]

- more comprehensive and risk-based assessment in all counties (4)
- expand targeted assessment program better assessment at the beginning so judge can order the services that are needed
- Portable screening/assessment tool that crosses systems
- evaluation of all children
- Outreach CATS clinic

Visitation Services/Centers [8 groups across 5 regions: J, N, SR, SB, TR]

- Supervised visitation for children (7)
- Skilled visitation supervisors who can provide free, therapeutic visitation for Cabinet involved families

Information-sharing Among Agencies [6 groups across 5 regions: C, EM, J, NB, TL]

General [3 groups across 3 regions: EM, NB, TL]

- Inter-agency information transferring (i.e. social worker → school) (2)
- resource education and coordination to ensure quality and reduce duplication

Resource Directory/Information on Services for Parties [3 groups across 2 regions: C, J]

- Need clearing house of services/catalog of so we know what is available (2)
- Notice/updates of services available for parties

Drug Court [6 groups across 4 regions: C, EM, TL, TR]

- Family Drug Court (3)
- Drug court (2)
- juvenile drug court (2)

Parent Education [6 groups over 4 regions: EM, NB, SB, TL]

- provide parent/child centers/classes with a focus on safe parenting skills (safe parent/child interactions) (4)
- Parenting classes that are age specific & longer
- Better parenting education services (more hands-on modeling)

Professional Training [5 groups across 5 regions: C, J, N, SR, SB]

- More interagency education or cross training (3)
- relevant education and training for agency workers and service providers (2)

Child Care [5 groups across 4 regions: C, J, NB, TR]

- expanding childcare/emergency childcare (3)
- Child care provided so parents can participate in services
- Daycare for teen moms

Housing [5 groups across 4 regions: C, J, N, SB]

- housing (3)
- housing services
- Residential facilities for women and children

Economic Development/Employment [4 groups across 3 regions: C, N, NB]

- develop economic opportunity (2)
- Income/poverty – barrier for middle income families to access services (2)

Emergency Shelters [4 groups across 3 regions: C, SB, TL]

- Emergency shelters in rural areas. (2)
- Safe-house in every single county for children – emergency shelter for children – emergency shelter for that could serve other needs such as visitation for families – courts/DJJ, Schools/DCBS joint effort.
- temporary shelters, placements without DCBS having custody

CASA [3 groups across 3 regions: C, EM, TR]

- CASA workers (establish in every county) (3)

Other [26]

- Every district (ombudsman) computer poles = voting (website)
- Accountability for each area!
- Support service aides to return to the field.
- expedited process for acquiring needed services for children in care
- more staff in Office of Counsel to help expedite TPR process
- Universal referral issues
- Personnel for scheduling appointments etc. for parties before they leave court that day
- Legal/agency case managers for case advocacy
- Mandate pro bono hours by attorneys
- Cabinet look at policies and help make inflexible services and funds available, i.e. non-

relative placements

- 3rd party annual review of hospital
- Need services in appropriate languages
- dental exams/medical cards; in our area increase healthcare options for medical card – expand for 18-21 population
- Increased services for Hispanics
- compensation for emergency beeper
- Grant money accessible to Boone County but not Gallatin – e.g. UKTAP, Brighten Center Court Diversion
- someone to check on medication, i.e. visiting health care workers.
- Flexibility of service providers
- Incentives to maintain front-line staff
- Encourage concurrent planning
- more family team meeting facilitators
- adoption subsidies should continue until a child graduates high school, regardless of their academic status, IV-E status or age.
- look at kids as individuals instead of standard cases
- TPP
- quality time
- permanency team to take a case through permanency process

Appendix M: Survey Instruments



Kentucky Summit on Children Participant Survey

Your perspective is very important to us. Please answer the following questions based on your experience and the role you play in the system.

Participant Characteristics

1) In what county do you perform most of your work? (if you have statewide responsibility, please list "statewide") _____

2) What is the primary role you play in the child protection or juvenile delinquency system?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Department for Juvenile Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-judicial court personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecuting Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent's attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen's Foster Care Review Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> volunteer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child's/Youth's attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Court Appointed Special Advocate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court designated worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet for Health and Family Services | |

3) Approximately how many years of experience do you have working in the child protection or juvenile delinquency system?
 ____ years

4) In which system do you focus most of your work?

- Child protection/Abuse, neglect, dependency system
- Juvenile delinquency system
- Both
- Neither

Use of Information Provided and Strategies Generated at the Summit

5) Regarding the presentations and workshops offered at the Summit,

	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	Very much	N/A
a. How satisfied are you with the training provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
b. Do you expect to use any of the ideas or materials from the training?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
c. If so, how useful will they be?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
d. Do you plan to recommend or	<input type="checkbox"/>					

discuss them with your colleagues?						
e. Do you plan to discuss them with your supervisor?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
f. Do you expect to use these materials in the future?	<input type="checkbox"/>					

6) If you do not expect to make good use of the ideas you learned/materials you received at the Summit, what will keep you from it?

- Lack of time
- I already use similar strategies from other sources
- These strategies don't fit with my practice style
- My agency does not have the resources to use them
- The strategies taught will not work with my clients/in my practice
- I do not feel properly trained to use them
- The strategies/materials seem cumbersome and difficult to use
- These strategies/materials don't comply with my agency's philosophy

7) Regarding the Regional Workgroup Sessions,

	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	Very much	N/A
a. How satisfied are you with the workgroup process?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
b. Do you expect to use any of the ideas or action plans generated in the sessions?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
c. If so, how useful will they be?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
d. Do you plan to recommend or discuss them with your colleagues?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
e. Do you plan to discuss them with your supervisor?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
f. Do you expect to use these ideas in the future?	<input type="checkbox"/>					

8) If you do not expect to make good use of the ideas and plans that were generated in your Regional Workgroup Session, what will keep you from it?

- Lack of time
- We already use similar strategies in our local court system
- These strategies don't fit with my practice style
- My local court system does not have the resources to use them
- The strategies taught will not work in my local court system
- I do not feel properly prepared to use them
- The strategies/materials seem cumbersome and difficult to use
- These strategies/materials don't comply with our court's philosophy
- Those individuals with the authority to implement these ideas do not recognize the need for/support reform efforts

Areas of the System in Need of Reform to Improve Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? Check all that apply.

- Miscommunication among agencies
- Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
- Docketing procedures
- Scheduling of hearings
- Continuances
- Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney's Office

- Competent legal representation for parents
- Competent legal representation for children (Guardian ad litem)
- Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case
- Competent assessment and case planning with families
- Judicial workload
- Court clerk workload
- Cabinet workload
- Distribution of written orders to parties
- Failure of Cabinet to make reasonable efforts to reunify families or achieve permanency for children
- Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families in your region
- Lack of judicial review of cases post-disposition
- Lack of permanent placement resources for children
- Failure to hold timely permanency hearings
- Delay in filing termination of parental rights petitions
- Delay in scheduling permanent relative custody hearings
- Delaying in filing adoption petitions
- Difficulty scheduling termination of parental rights/adoption hearings
- Appeals process
- Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents
- Failure to identify, locate or engage potential relative placement resources
- Lack of diligent concurrent planning efforts
- Failure to involve foster parents or relative caregivers in court proceedings
- Failure to adequately inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? Check all that apply.

- Miscommunication among agencies
- Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
- Docketing procedures
- Scheduling of hearings
- Continuances
- Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney's Office

- Competent legal representation for parents
- Competent legal representation for children
- Competent assessment and case planning with youth and families
- Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case
- Judicial workload
- Court clerk workload
- DJJ staff workload
- Distribution of written orders to parties
- Inappropriate detainment of juveniles
- Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families in your region
- Lack of judicial review of cases post-disposition
- Lack of permanent placement resources for children
- Failure to effectively use court diversion process
- Lack of appropriate court diversion programs
- Appeals process
- Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents
- Failure to identify, locate or engage potential relative placement resources
- Failure to adequately inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

11) On what aspect of the overall child welfare system, and dependency, neglect and abuse court process should we most focus our reform efforts?

- The child protection investigation and service delivery process prior to filing of an emergency custody order or petition
- Between filing the ECO/petition and the Temporary Removal Hearing
- Temporary Removal Hearing
- Adjudication
- Disposition
- Post-disposition
- Permanency Review/Hearings
- Termination of Parental Rights Process
- Adoption Process
- Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process

12) On what aspect of the overall status/delinquency process should we most focus our reform efforts?

- Prior to a youth being charged
- Diversion
- Arraignment
- Adjudication
- Pre-dispositional investigations
- Disposition
- Post-disposition/Aftercare
- Detention
- Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process

13) In your opinion what type of general reform is most needed to improve the process and create a system of care for children and youth? Check all that apply.

- Statutory change
- Revision of court administrative procedures
- Training of professionals involved in the court process
- Multidisciplinary strategic planning and implementation of local reform
- Enhanced collaboration on a local level
- Development of new statewide innovative programs
- Allocation of increased resources to the system
- Evaluation of child welfare and court-related programs and on-going research into the effectiveness of the court system in promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth
- Other _____

14) In regards to the types of reform indicated above, if you have ideas of specific changes that should be instituted, please describe:

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky:

- Automated court forms
- Automatic docketing
- Procedures to limit continuances
- Distribution of written orders at hearings
- One judge/One case policy
- Court/Agency/Community Collaboratives
- Judicial Leadership programs
- Multidisciplinary training
- Performance measurement and data-driven procedure development on a local level
- Family drug court
- Child protection mediation
- Juvenile diversion programs
- Truancy court
- Expedited appeals procedures
- Increased judicial review
- Legal counsel appointment reform
- Detailed reasonable efforts findings
- Local communication strategies (e.g. brown bag lunches)
- Expedited adoption strategies to alleviate backlog of cases awaiting termination of parental rights/adoption
- Kinship care resource center
- System of Care initiative
- Establishment of juvenile court case manager positions
- Mental health court
- Dependency/Delinquency Crossover Committee
- Educational surrogate for foster children



Kentucky Regional Summit on Children Participant Survey

Your perspective is very important to us. Please answer the following questions based on your experience and the role you play in the system.

Participant Characteristics

1) Location of your regional meeting

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gilbertsville
<input type="checkbox"/> Owensboro
<input type="checkbox"/> Covington
<input type="checkbox"/> Shepherdsville
<input type="checkbox"/> Somerset | <input type="checkbox"/> Prestonsburg
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisville
<input type="checkbox"/> Richmond
<input type="checkbox"/> Morehead |
|--|--|

2) What is the primary role you play in the child protection or juvenile delinquency system?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judge
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-judicial court personnel
<input type="checkbox"/> Prosecuting Attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent's attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/> Child's/Youth's attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> Court designated worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet for Health and Family Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Department for Juvenile Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen's Foster Care Review Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Court Appointed Special Advocate
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|--|

3) Approximately how many years of experience do you have working in the child protection or juvenile delinquency system?

_____ years

4) In which system do you focus most of your work?

- Child protection/Abuse, neglect, dependency system
 Juvenile delinquency system
 Both
 Neither

Use of Information Provided and Strategies Generated at the Regional Meeting

6) Regarding the Focus Group Activities,

	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	Very much	N/A
a. How satisfied are you with the training provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
b. Do you expect to use any of the ideas or materials from the training?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
c. If so, how useful will they be?	<input type="checkbox"/>					
d. Do you plan to recommend or	<input type="checkbox"/>					

discuss them with your colleagues?						
e. Do you plan to discuss them with your supervisor?	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Areas of the System in Need of Reform to Improve Outcomes for Children, Youth and Families

9) Which of the following issues or aspects of the child welfare and court process play a significant role in hampering the timely achievement of permanency for children? *Check all that apply.*

- Miscommunication among agencies
- Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
- Docketing procedures
- Scheduling of hearings
- Continuances
- Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney's Office
- Competent legal representation for parents
- Competent legal representation for children (Guardian ad litem)
- Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case
- Competent assessment and case planning with families
- Judicial workload
- Court clerk workload
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- Distribution of written orders to parties
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- Lack or accessibility of treatment resources/services for children and families in your region
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- Lack of permanent placement resources for children
- Failure to hold timely permanency hearings
- Delay in filing termination of parental rights petitions
- Delay in scheduling permanent relative custody hearings
- Delaying in filing adoption petitions
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- Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents
- Failure to identify, locate or engage potential relative placement resources
- Lack of diligent concurrent planning efforts
- Failure to involve foster parents or relative caregivers in court proceedings
- Failure to adequately inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

10) Which of the following issues or aspects of the juvenile justice process play a significant role in hampering the effective resolution of status and juvenile delinquency cases? *Check all that apply.*

- Miscommunication among agencies
- Lack of awareness/understanding of the roles of other agencies/professionals in the process
- Docketing procedures

- Scheduling of hearings
- Continuances
- Competent prosecution of cases by the County Attorney's Office
- Competent legal representation for parents
- Competent legal representation for children
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- Multiple judges presiding throughout the life of the case
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- Failure to effectively use court diversion process
- Lack of appropriate court diversion programs
- Appeals process
- Failure to identify, locate or engage absent parents
- Failure to identify, locate or engage potential relative placement resources
- Failure to adequately inform parents of their rights or the seriousness of the court proceedings

11) On what **ONE** aspect of the overall child welfare system, and dependency, neglect and abuse court process should we **most** focus our reform efforts?

- The child protection investigation and service delivery process prior to filing of an emergency custody order or petition
- Between filing the ECO/petition and the Temporary Removal Hearing
- Temporary Removal Hearing
- Adjudication
- Disposition
- Post-disposition
- Permanency Review/Hearings
- Termination of Parental Rights Process
- Adoption Process
- Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process. Explain _____

12) On what **ONE** aspect of the overall status/delinquency process should we **most** focus our reform efforts?

- Prior to a youth being charged
- Diversion
- Arraignment
- Adjudication
- Pre-dispositional investigations
- Disposition
- Post-disposition/Aftercare
- Detention
- Focus on broader systemic issues such as worker training rather than a particular stage of the process. Explain _____

13) In your opinion what type of general reform is most needed to improve the process and create a system of care for children and youth? Check all that apply.

- Statutory change
- Revision of court administrative procedures
- Mandatory training of professionals involved in the court process (For whom? _____)
- Multidisciplinary strategic planning and implementation of local reform
- Enhanced collaboration on a local level
- Development of new statewide innovative programs
- Allocation of increased resources to the system
- Evaluation of child welfare and court-related programs and on-going research into the effectiveness of the court system in promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth
- Other _____

14) In regards to the types of reform indicated above, if you have ideas of specific changes that should be instituted, please describe:

15) Across the state and the nation, a number of innovative court practices have been instituted or piloted designed to enhance the ability of the court to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. The following is a list derived from Model Court projects and other sources. Please indicate which you believe should be implemented in Kentucky:

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- One judge/One case policy
- Court/Agency/Community Collaboratives
- Judicial Leadership programs
- Multidisciplinary training
- Performance measurement and data-driven procedure development on a local level
- Family drug court
- Child protection mediation
- Juvenile diversion programs
- Truancy court
- Expedited appeals procedures
- Increased judicial review
- Legal counsel appointment reform
- Detailed reasonable efforts findings
- Local communication strategies (e.g. brown bag lunches)
- Expedited adoption strategies to alleviate backlog of cases awaiting termination of parental rights/adoption
- Kinship care resource center
- System of Care initiative
- Establishment of juvenile court case manager positions
- Mental health court

- Dependency/Delinquency Crossover Committee
- Educational surrogate for foster children
- Graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Adoption is studying a number of issues related to improving the processes and practices that lead to the termination of parental rights and adoption of children in Kentucky’s child welfare system and would like your input on specific topics related to their work.

16) Should Kentucky allow public access to court proceedings related to child abuse, neglect and dependency?

- Yes No

If yes, under what conditions?

If public access is allowed, what additional safeguards might be necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of the child and family?

17) Should the Court appoint an attorney for indigent parents prior so that they will have representation at Temporary Removal Hearings?

- Yes No

If yes, how would this be feasible in your locality?

18) Should Kentucky have a paternity registry for putative fathers?

- Yes No

If so, how should it be structured?

19) Should Kentucky require searches of paternity registries of other states that have them prior to adoption if the father is not known?

- Yes No

Follow up from the Kentucky Summit on Children held in August

Based on the results of the Survey in the State Summit, we would like your opinions regarding of areas that Summit participants felt were in greatest need of attention.

20) In your opinion, what needs to happen to improve communication and understanding of roles among professional agencies involved in the child welfare and court system in your region?
